The WHOLE TRUTH Church of God in Christ

PURPOSED TO INSPIRE AND INFORM COGIC READERS...AND...CHRISTIANS...EVERYWHERE

Since 1895

SPECIAL EDITION

Issue

Presiding Bishop Charles Edward

Many SR.



MEET 100 PASTORS

Page 58

DAVID DAUGHTRY LEAPS

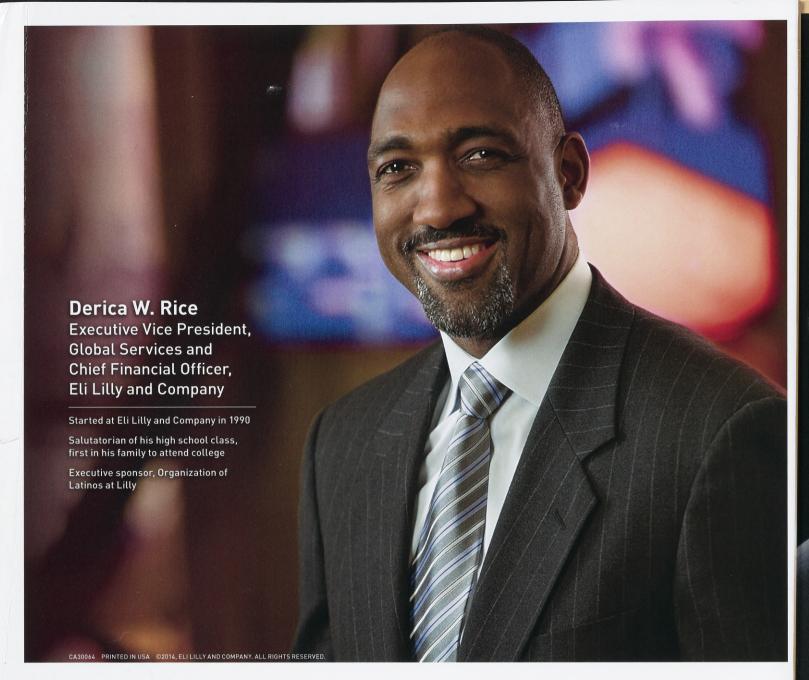
By Marion McNair

Page 112

WHEN STRONG MEN BREAK

By Elder Rick D. Cunningham

Page 26



A stronger sense of purpose.

My mom was the smartest person I have ever known. She raised the seven of us on her own after my dad died when I was only 11. We never had much money, but I realize now that because of things she taught us, we were rich. I carry her wisdom with me throughout my daily work.

I also watched my mom struggle with diabetes. Thanks in part to Lilly, I shared 25 years with her that otherwise would not have been possible. And now I have the opportunity to do the same for other people.

Once, in a VA hospital, I was approached by a Vietnam veteran. He told me how his life was transformed by our medicines. And that's when it clicked for me—the REAL impact of what we do here and the dramatic effect we have on people's lives. After that meeting, I had an even stronger sense of purpose. Lilly's done so much for my family and for many others. And I hope the work I am doing today will help my three children overcome some of the challenges they might face tomorrow.

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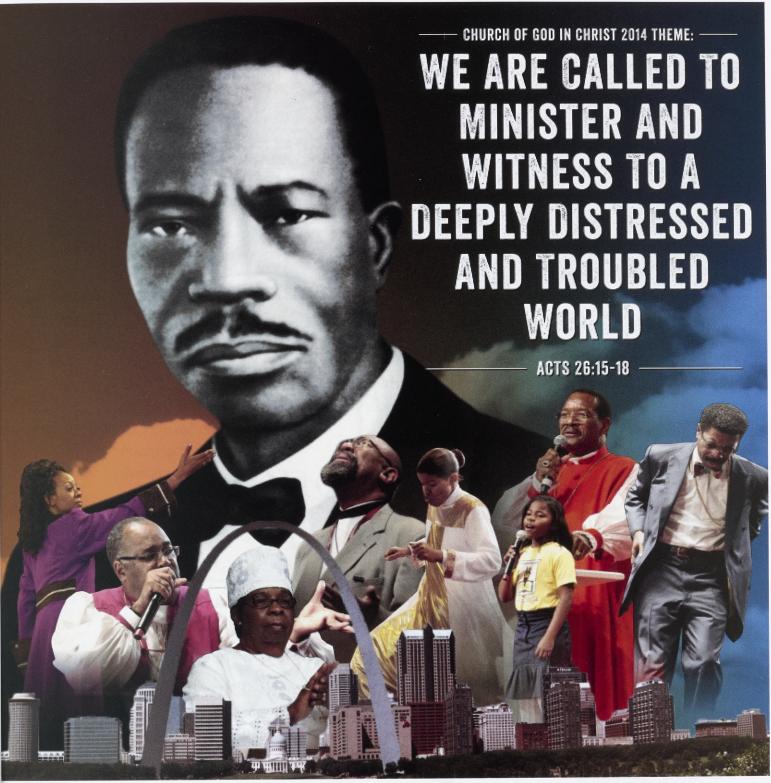
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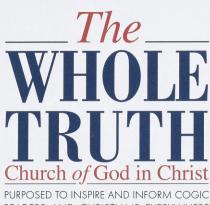
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Celebrating the Birth of Our Founder Bishop Charles Harrison Mason



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Since 1895

Volume 118, Number 5

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The Whole Truth JULY/AUG 2014 CONTENTS

FEATURED ARTICLES



14 The Whole Truth Tribute: Bishop Elton Allen Lawrence

20 Oh the Joy of Leading God's People

By Elder David-George Newsome
 Funny stories that pastors have told over the years.

26 When Strong Men Break

- By Elder Rick D. Cunningham Pastors are as human as the rest of the Body of Christ.

34 Twelve Principles of Church Growth

By Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.
 Twelve practical principles that every pastor should follow.

38 Church Planting

By Elder Kyle Huckins, Ph.D.
 Finding A Home On The LONE PRAIRIE

44 Near Centurion

Happy 99th Birthday to Adjutant Overseer Elder John Zachariah Smith!

46 The 21st Century Parishioner and the Black
Pentecostal Church: A Critical View for Pastors
By Professor Jà Hon Vance

52 COGIC Highlight

By Wesley Lambert
 Dr. Charles Moore Brings Affordable Healthcare
 to Underserved Communities

58 TWT Feature Presentation:

COGIC's 2014 100 Influentiaal Pastors

- By Elder David-George Newsome
- Church of God In Christ Presidium and General Officers
- The 2014 100 Influential Pastors and 7 Pastors You Need to Know

110 Youth N.O.W

- By Daniele Randolph

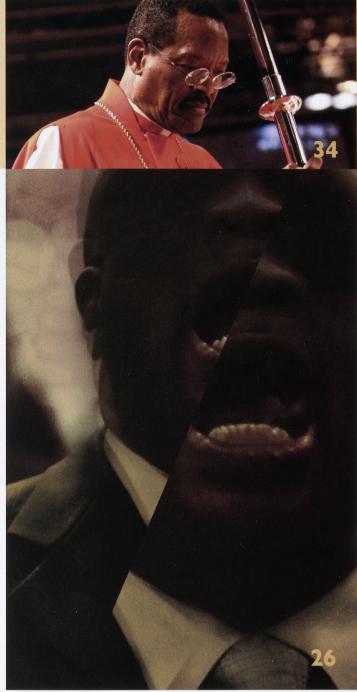
Have You Considered Being an Intern?

Through an internship, a college student is privileged to work alongside professionals in their field of interest.

114 Praise & Worship Leader David Daughtry...LEAPS!

By Marion McNair
 A powerful instrument of

A powerful instrument of praise that makes us LEAP with joyful noises.





122 An Appetite for Righteousness

- By Queen E. Phillips

126 Make Room for the Mothers Board

By Sandra Thompson Williams
 Why the Mothers Board is so powerful within the church.

130 Oasis In the Desert

By Reginald BoswellThe amazing impact of Bishop Juan O. Lawson

FEATURED COLUMNS

136

FEATURED COLUMN

Rediscovering Me, Rediscovering You With Dr. Michelle Jackson-McCoy

The Woman Beside the Man

142

FEATURED COLUMN

Legally Speaking

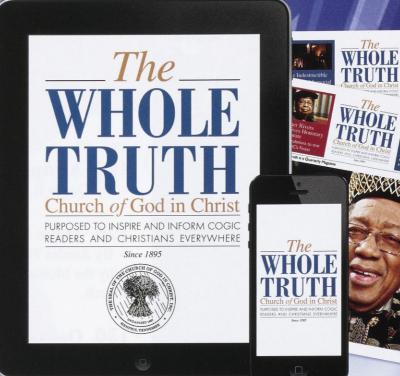
With Attorney Uleses C. Henderson, Jr.

Does the Federal Housing

Allowance Provided to Ministers Violate the U.S. Constitution?

Have you read The Whole Truth lately....?





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From The Desk of Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.



"So I exhort the elders among you...shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; not domineering over those in your charge, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory." (1 Peter 5:1-4, ESV)

Greetings Dear Readers:

When sheep stray from the flock and lose their way, it is the shepherd who guides them home. When they have fallen into the snares of a predator, the shepherd protects them from harm. When sheep are in need of nourishment, it is the shepherd who feeds them with rich nutrients to sustain their lives. Sheep need their shepherds because without them, they cannot fulfill their purpose.

Likewise, the Body of Christ needs pastors; those who are called by the Supreme Shepherd to guide, protect and feed His people, so that they too may fulfill their purpose. And so today, we pause to commend and reflect on those who are called to pastor, for the immeasurable service that they daily provide to their flocks.

With great enthusiasm, I would like to extend a very hearty congratulations to the 2014 100 Influential Pastors and to the Pastors You Need to Know who are featured in this exceptional edition of The Whole Truth. You are the very heartbeat of the church and without servants of your commitment and caliber, the organ would fail. Remain encouraged and with the help of the Holy Spirit, continue being the very best pastors you can possibly be.

The Scripture says in Jeremiah, "And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding." Saints of The Most High, remember that God cares for you enough to grace you with shepherds that He entrusts. Love and pray for your pastors always.

In His Service,

Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

arles Blake

Presiding Bishop

Church of God In Christ, Inc.

The Seventh In Succession



The Whole Truth TRIBUTE



IN THE PHOTO: Bishop Elton A. Lawrence, Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr., First Lady, Mrs. Mae Lawrence Blake, Publishing Board Member, Bishop Welton L. Lawrence and his wife Mrs. Joyce Lawrence

With joy and admiration, The Whole Truth, The Publishing House and the entire Church of God in Christ celebrate the life of Bishop Elton A. Lawrence, the father of First Lady Mae L. Blake and Bishop Welton L. Lawrence. We graciously salute this dedicated and steadfast servant for his lifelong, faithful contribution to the Body of Christ. With heartfelt prayer, we undergird the family of Bishop Lawrence, as well as the East Grand Boulevard COGIC church family, during their time of mourning.

We pray that they are strengthened by our persistent hope in Glory.



LETTER from the EDITOR





Congratulations to the 2014 100 Influential Pastors and Pastors You Need to Know!

Dear Readers:

This 2nd 2014 issue and uniquely special edition of The Whole Truth is truly one to treasure. This month, we celebrate a group of beloved pastors who are exceptionally impacting and influencing their church families and communities – our 2014 100 Influential Pastors. We also salute and commend the 7 prominent pastors whom we've proudly deemed as Pastors You Need to Know. Congratulations to all of the well-deserving honorees!

The response to the *100 Influential Pastors* call for nominations was completely overwhelming and we graciously thank every person who took the time to submit a nomination for their esteemed pastor. The outpouring of love and appreciation for these servants of God is to be commended. We abundantly thank the chairman of this feat, Elder David George Newsome, and the entire selection committee, who tirelessly worked to meticulously select the honorees. I know that they were increasingly encouraged and inspired with the review of each entry.

We dedicate this issue to all pastors, within the Church of God in Christ and across the globe. While the content of this issue edifies and honors those we embrace as pastors, it also speaks to some of the difficulties and issues they may face. We hope that church members and pastors alike can obtain at least one informative and one inspiring takeaway from these pages.

Again, many thanks to all who participated and ultimately made this special edition a great success! And may we encourage you, dear readers, if you have not done so lately, to appreciate your pastor with a kind word or thoughtful gesture today.

By His Grace,

April E. Quillen



CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST (COGIC) SELECTS 28 NEW BISHOPS FOR CONSECRATION THIS FALL

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July 1, 2014 (Memphis, TN) -- Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. and the General Board of the Church of God in Christ recently designated twenty-eight pastors from across the globe to be consecrated in November and elevated to the office of bishop.

Presiding Bishop Blake says, "The leadership of the Church of God in Christ has chosen men for the office of bishop that will provide direction and spiritual insight to various parts of the United States, Mexico and Africa where they will serve. These men will aid the international church in fulfilling our mission and the great commission of Jesus Christ to go into the highways and hedges and compel men to come."

On Sunday evening, November 9, 2014 during the 107th Holy Convocation, these 28 men will gather in St. Louis, Missouri to be consecrated to the highest office in the denomination. Their families and their local congregations from seventeen states and two foreign countries will gather and participate in the ceremony.

FOLLOWING IS THE LIST OF

BISHOP DESIGNEES

TO BE CONSECRATED:

Bishop Designee Leo C. Brown, Jr. Auxiliary Bishop, Washington Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee David Daniels Auxiliary Bishop, Illinois Fifth Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Alphonso Denson Prelate, Louisiana East Jurisdiction One

Bishop Designee Nathaniel A. Ellis Auxiliary Bishop, Missouri Southeast Third Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Maurice Green, Jr. Prelate, Mexico Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Robert L. Hargrove Auxiliary Bishop, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Milton R. Hawkins Auxiliary Bishop, Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee James E. Hicks Auxiliary Bishop, Washington Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee James W. Hunt Auxiliary Bishop, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Jerry L. Ivery Prelate, Kenya Second East Africa Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Milton P. Jackson, Jr. Auxiliary Bishop, Kansas Central Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Levi Lenley Auxiliary Bishop, Oklahoma Southeast Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Clarence Lewis, III Auxiliary Bishop, Pennsylvania Commonwealth Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee James A. Lewis, Sr. Auxiliary Bishop, Southern California First Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Albert J. Mays, Jr. Auxiliary Bishop, Texas Western Jurisdiction Bishop Designee Don V. Nobles, Sr. Prelate, Texas Lone Star Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Charles Harrison Mason Patterson Auxiliary Bishop, Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Augustus D. Pullen Auxiliary Bishop, Connecticut Second Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Robert G. Rudolph, Jr. Auxiliary Bishop, Arkansas Second Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Ahmed M. Screven Auxiliary Bishop, New York Eastern Fourth Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Arthur Riley Shields Auxiliary Bishop, Greater Maryland First Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Robert E. Smith, Sr. Auxiliary Bishop, Michigan First Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Talbert W. Swan, II Auxiliary Bishop, Greater Massachusetts Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Jerry W. Taylor Auxiliary Bishop, Tennessee Fifth Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Bernard S. Wallace Pennsylvania Second Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Dwight E. Walls, Sr. Michigan Great Lakes Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Lee Ward Auxiliary Bishop, Tennessee Headquarters Jurisdiction

Bishop Designee Patrick L. Wooden, Sr. Auxiliary Bishop, Greater North Carolina Jurisdiction

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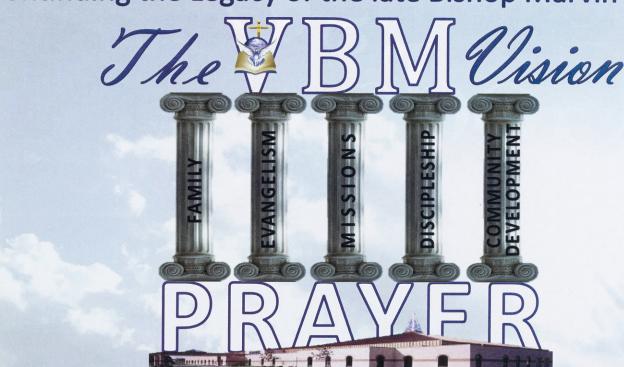
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On your nomination and recognition as one of COGIC's 100 Influential Pastors 2014.

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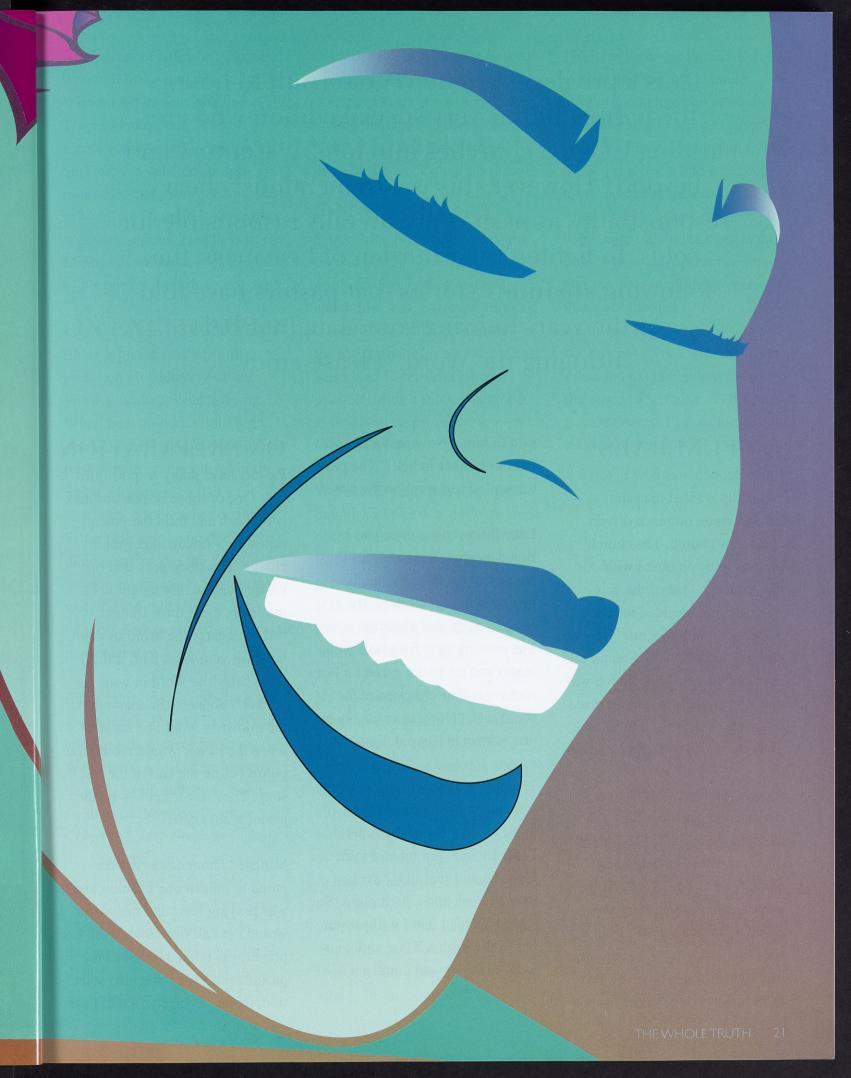




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By Elder David George Newsome



It is a privilege for The Whole Truth to honor the pastors of this very special edition who are leading COGIC churches into the 21st Century and beyond. However, this is a tremendously heavy responsibility, as pastors are literally responsible for souls. To lighten their burden of heaviness, the following are funny stories that pastors have told over the years to bring some laughter before bringing the Word. Please enjoy!

ON FUNERALS

Elder Bennett was new in town and really wanted the saints to become more outreach driven at his new church. The church seemed to be on board with this new concept. One of the ways Elder Bennett decided to reach out was through funerals. He met with the local funeral director and informed him that his church was open to people in need of a place to have a funeral for a loved one. They did not need to be members.

A prominent lady with a torrid past and questionable business practices, died. The funeral director called Elder Bennett and informed him. This was the church's first opportunity to reach out to a family in need. He met with the family later that day and had a great time. However, just as he was leaving, the oldest son

said to him, "Now pastor, do not put our mother in hell." The pastor smiled and went on his way.

Later that evening, there was a Board meeting at the church. The pastor told the Board about their first outreach opportunity. The Board was excited about the news. The meeting went for a little while longer and the pastor asked for last comments. The chairman of the board said, "Now pastor, do not put that woman in Heaven."

The pastor dealt with these two statements over the next few days. On the day of the funeral, Elder Bennett got up and said, "You know I feel like I am between a rock and a hard place. So, I have decided that I will preach her to the Jordan River and whoever wants her can come get her."

ON PREPARATION

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Pastors have many responsibilities. One of those responsibilities is to teach and train the young ministers who are under their charge. The story goes that one pastor consistently taught his ministers these three things: "Always carry the Word in your heart, in your head and, if that fails, carry the Word in your pocket." So every Sunday night, the ministers would be nervous when the pastor would mount the pulpit before the end of the last song. They never knew who the pastor would call.

Minister Thomas was not prepared to preach one evening and was praying hard that the pastor would not call his name. Well, his prayer was not answered as the pastor said, "After the next selection, the next voice you will hear will be that of Minister Thomas who will bring tonight's word." Without hesitation, Minster Thomas belted out, "Pastor, I ain't got no word in my pocket." Service was delayed for five minutes while everyone laughed at Minister Thomas, although he was very serious. Needless to say, Minister Thomas carries the Word in his pocket until this very day!

ON EXCITEMENT

Elder Johnson was a prolific preacher. His delivery of the Word was always electrifying. When he would kick into high gear, the congregation would just push him to another level in the Spirit. However, he had a nitpicking school teacher member, Sister Coleman, who deliberately liked pointing out the flaws in his sermon every week. She normally would wait until the conclusion of service to do so, except for one particular day.

Elder Johnson was preaching hard about Jonah. He was in high gear and the people were rejoicing.

Well, in the midst of the sermon he said, "And, and, and, Jonah, swallowed the whale." Sister

Coleman lost it. She was shaking her head and just couldn't wait.

She interrupted Elder Johnson, "Elder Johnson, Elder Johnson, Elder Johnson, I just can't let this go on. You are wrong! Jonah didn't swallow the whale, the whale swallowed Jonah!" To not

S

be outdone, Elder Johnson looked her right in the face and continued, "Ok, but I knew it was some swallowing going on." Sister Coleman took her seat and Elder Johnson finished the sermon uninterrupted!

ON MARRIAGE

Sister Price is the epitome of the perfect pastor's wife. She is supportive, encouraging and dedicated. She was, however, carrying a secret. She had a box located on the top of the refrigerator that she had asked Elder Price to never open. He didn't think much of it at first, and he promised to never look in this box.

Well, some years had passed. One day Sister Price was out with some of the church members. Elder Price went to the refrigerator to get something to drink. He looked at this box several times. Curiosity got the best of him and he took the box down and opened it.

He was surprised to find in the box, three eggs and more than 100 dollars in cash. He stood perplexed. 'What was this about?' he thought to himself. Well, he closed the box and put it back. Several days passed and the guilt of what he had done was getting to him, so he said, "Honey, I have a confession to make. I looked in your box the other day." She said, "You did...no." He said, "Yes. Honey, what were the eggs and money in the box for?"

"Well, when we got married my mother told me that I should always encourage you as a minister. She said to tell you when you preached a good sermon, but if you preached a bad sermon, to put an egg in the box." Elder Price stuck his chest out because there were only three eggs in the box. "I have only preached three bad sermons in all these years, that's not too bad!" "Not exactly," continued Sister Price. "You see, the box got so full with eggs that I decided to start selling them by the dozen. The money is the profit from the sales. I'm working on another dozen now."

David George Newsome is a resident of Muskegon, Michigan. He is a member of Grace for the Nations Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan (Admin. Asst. Tarence E. Lauchié, pastor), and the Assistant Jurisdictional Secretary of the Michigan Southwest Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction (Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr., prelate). He is married to Melba White Newsome, the father of two and grandfather of one, JaMilah.

Michigan Southwest Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction COGIC

Congricultus

SW3 2014 Honorees

Among COGIC's

INFLUENTIAL 14
Pastors



COGIC's 100 Influential Pastors
Admin. Assistant
Louis L. Bishop
Christopher V. Pryor



Seven COGIC Pastors to Know Admin, Assistant Admin, Assistant

Robert Dean

Admin. Assistant Tarence E. Lauchie

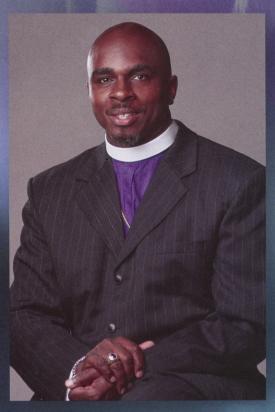
Bishop Samuel Duncan Jr., Jurisdictional Prelate Mother Earlie M. Peppers, Supervisor, Women's Department

COGIC's 100 Influential Pastors

Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr.

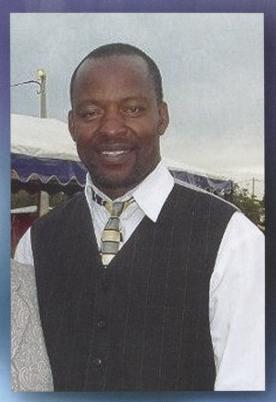
The South African First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

is proud to congratulate two of our Pastors
Who were selected as one of COGIC's 100 influential Pastors



Bishop Vincent Mathews, Jr.
Prelate, South Africa First Jurisdiction
Pastor, Tabernacle COGIC
Ivory Park, Johannesburg

ors



Pastor John Magwati
President, SA1st Dept of Mission
Pastor, Gospel COGIC
Winnie Mandela, Tembisa

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Email: Bishop@cogicsa,org

Instagram: @Vincent Mathews

Depression Among Clergy:

—When Strong Men—BRRAK

By Elder Rick D. Cunningham

"The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity" (Ecclesiastes 1:1-2).

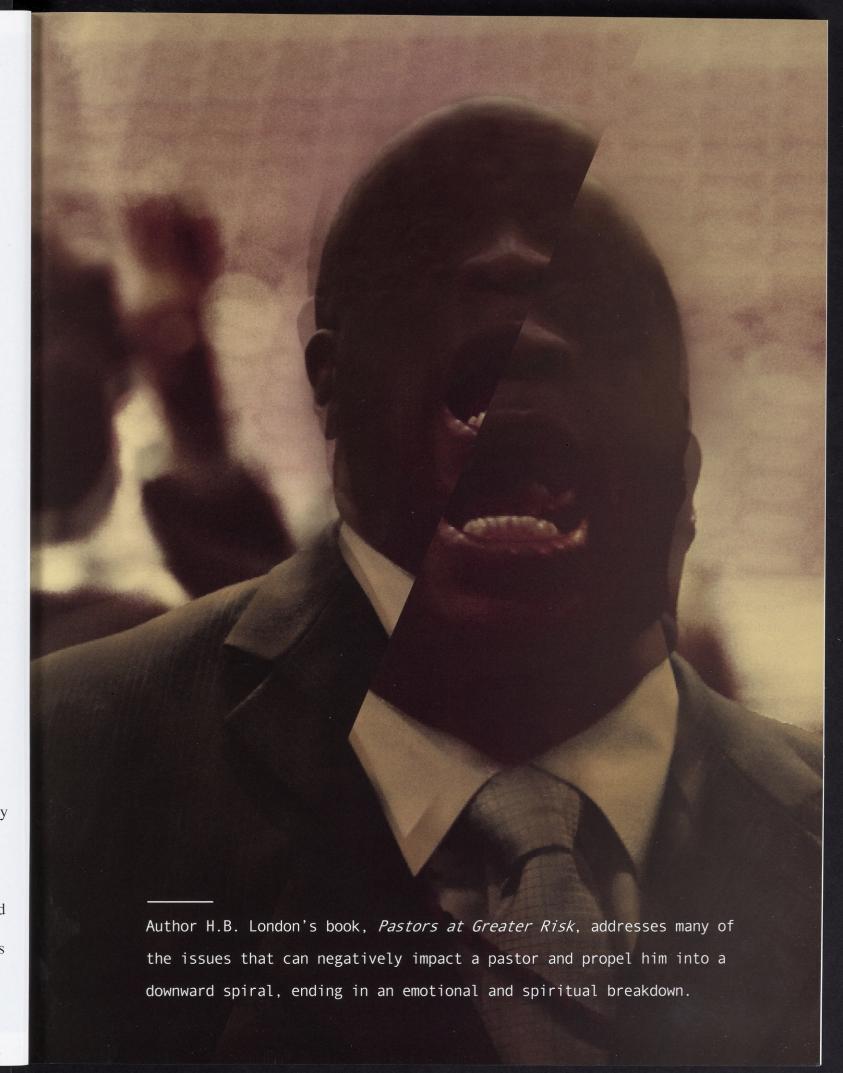
"And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith faileth not: and when thou art converted strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:31-32).

Within the local church, the pastor takes on many roles, besides that of a spiritual guide and advisor. Different members of his congregation have different expectations of him based on their individual needs. The pastor can be viewed simultaneously as a father figure, friend, marriage counselor, mediator, financial advisor, relationship guide, devil fighter and a leader of God's children. The pastor must meet all these expectations, while at the same time managing his own personal and/or family life.

Solomon was a preacher. He was gifted and

wise. Under today's clinical standards, Solomon may have been diagnosed as bipolar. He alternated back and forth between viewing life as good and being fixated on the negative aspects of life. At times, he was extremely committed to serving the Lord. At other times, he allowed himself to become distracted by outside influences. It may seem that pastors are immune to the same life afflictions that lay members suffer. After all, God called them into the pastoral service.

"He that descended is the same also that



ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things. And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ" (Ephesians 4:10-12).

The fact of the matter is, pastors are as human as the rest of the Body of Christ; they have simply been given a greater responsibility. The responsibilities of the pastor can be immense. Those responsibilities can also be overwhelming, even among those who are seemingly well prepared and mentally, emotionally, and spiritually equipped for the challenges of pastoring.

In response to the recent suicides by a pastor in Macon, GA, and another in Hazelcrest, IL, the conversation of depression among pastors has resurfaced. By all accounts, these two pastors were well respected and pillars in their churches. No one saw the tragedies of their suicides coming.

I spoke with Elder Michael Eaddy, COGIC's National Chairman of the General Council of Pastors and Elders, concerning the recent suicides and about depression among pastors. Chairman Eaddy acknowledged that depression among pastors is an issue that needs to be brought to the forefront and addressed. He would like to see resources in place to provide support services to pastors who are suffering from anxiety and depression brought about or relating to their role as a pastor.

Chairman Eaddy also stated that he would like to see a process implemented whereby pastors can reach out in a confidential manner and seek help in times of crises and not be ostracized or embarrassed.

Chairman Eaddy further explained that depression is not something that is easily and readily discussed nor something that you would expose. While many pastors are dealing with depression issues in silence, the problem of depression is a rising concern among the clergy.

While recent events have received our attention, depression and suicide among the clergy is not something new. Author H.B. London's book, *Pastors at Greater Risk*, addresses many of the issues that can negatively impact a pastor and propel him into a downward spiral, ending in an emotional and spiritual breakdown. Included in London's book was a New York Times report (August 1, 2010) detailing a number of sobering statistics presented on this epidemic.

The statistics revealed the following about pastors:

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- 13% of active pastors are divorced.
- 25% do not know where to turn when they have a family or personal conflict or issue.
- 33% felt burned out within their first five years of ministry.
- 40% of pastors and 47% of spouses are suffering from burnout, frantic schedules, and/or unrealistic expectations.
- 45% say the greatest danger to them and their family is physical, emotional, mental and spiritual burnout.
- 50% feel unable to meet the needs of the job.
- 70% don't have any close friends.
- 75% report severe stress that causes anguish, worry, bewilderment, anger, depression, fear and alienation.
- 80% say they have insufficient time with their spouses.
- 80% believe that pastoral ministry affects their families negatively.
- 90% work more than 50 hours a week.
- 94% feel pressure to have a perfect family.
- 25% of pastors' wives see their husband's work schedules as a source of conflict.
- 56% of pastors' wives say that they have no close friends.

It is evident that there is an escalating problem. It is understood that the answer to depression is found in the scriptures and trusting in God and the guiding of His Holy Spirit. It is just as apparent, however, that even pastors need positive spiritual and practical reinforcement. When dealing with depression among pastors, it may be necessary to look beyond the title of pastor and look at them as friends and brothers within the Body of Christ. "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9-1).

Jesus is the first born among many brothers. In a family as large as the Body of Christ, anyone can encounter challenging issues that can torment and plague them. It is important that a pastor knows and understands that what he is experiencing is

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and

have to succumb. Jeremiah had his moment. Lazarus' sisters, Martha and Mary, had their moment. Paul certainly had his share of challenges. If we, pastor or lay member, allow the Word of God, the comfort of the Holy Spirit, and the intercession of Jesus to help us, we can overcome any issue that is trying to break and destroy us.

David wrote about his troubles and he had many. Sometimes it is necessary to share our problems and not internalize them and snap. David was able to get through all of his troubles because he believed things would get better. He wrote in Psalm 23:4, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." When it comes to crisis management, we can learn a lot from David. David was determined to make it through ev-

Depression is real but relief is available. God is far stronger than anything that has the potential to break us down.

not unique to him alone; depression among clergy transcends racial and denominational lines. We are helpers one to another. It is unrealistic to hold our pastors to a higher standard and turn a blind eye to their troubling situations.

I have always taught and preached strength in the Lord. I don't preach weakness or encourage it; however, I have also always stressed compassion and understanding. The Bible instructs the followers of Jesus "...to be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous" (1 Peter 3:8). God extends compassion and understanding towards us, and that is the example we should follow. "The Lord is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy" (Psalm 145:8).

There is an orchestrated attack by the devil to destroy the pastor's leadership in local churches. When the angel of the local church becomes dismayed by the attacks, it can create an avenue for the devil to create havoc in the church. If the church leader loses his spiritual vision, the Body of Christ will be in peril. In Luke 6:39, Jesus asked the question, "Can the blind lead the blind? Shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

Depression is not something to which we

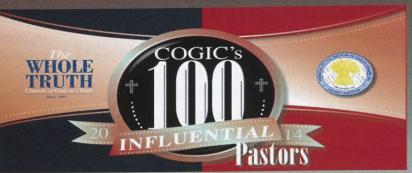
ery traumatic situation he encountered. He would not give up. David's approach was, "I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living" (Psalm 27:13).

Depression is real but relief is available. God is far stronger than anything that has the potential to break us down.

Elder Rick Cunningham is the author of "Making Choices in Christ: Moving Beyond Self Destructive Choices And Behavior" and the Chairman of the Florida Central Second Ecclesiastic Jurisdiction Pastors and Elders Council.



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PRINCIPLES OF CHURCH GROWTH

By Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr.

I. LOVE, KNOW, AND SERVE GOD (Mark 12:30)

That must be your number one obsession and goal in your life and in your heart.

2. CHOOSE TO BE A MAN OF MORAL AND SPIRITUAL INTEGRITY (Proverbs 22:1)

We will never produce people of moral and spiritual integrity until we are men of moral and spiritual integrity.

3. LOVE AND SERVE PEOPLE (Mark 9:35)

Sometimes the church loses the paradigm that God would have us approach and we settle for an antiquated paradigm. We feel that the preacher is to be served like a king. That is not what the Lord desires.

4. GO BEYOND WHAT YOU KNOW AND WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN (John 14:12)

God is a creative God. He started with nothing; and what he created had never been done before. Find the best and exceed it.

5. STRIVE FOR THE BEST, STRIVE FOR EXCELLENCE (Hebrews | 1:4)

Excellence is attainable at every level in life. You don't have to be famous to be excellent. You can have an unfamiliar name and be excellent.

6. RESPECT THE CHURCH AS A BUSINESS (Romans 12:11; Luke 16:8)

No businessman should be more devoted, committed or proficient in his business than you.

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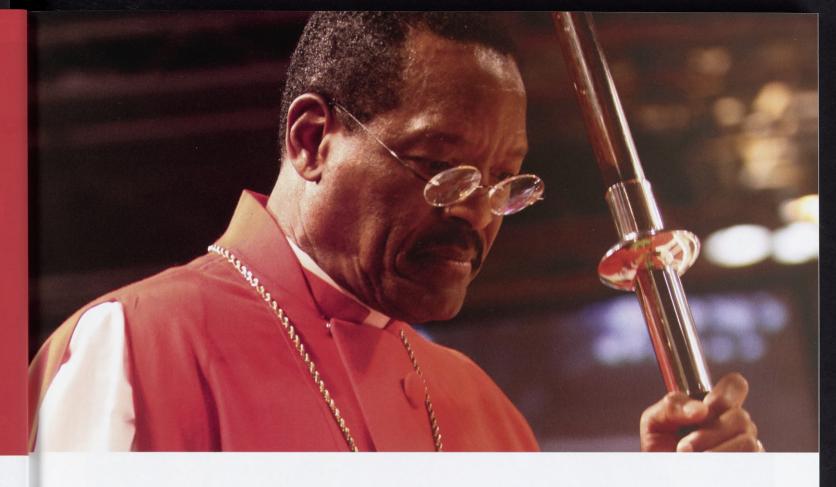
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7. LIMIT YOUR PERSONAL INCOME (Luke 6:38)

Allow yourself to become a conduit of blessings. Be an example of generosity and liberality.

8. SHARE THE MINISTRY WITH OTHERS (John 4:28-30)

If your church is to do all the things that you want your church to do, then you need people to help you.

9. FEED THE FLOCK - INVEST IN GROWTH AND STAFF (Matthew 25:14-30)

Edify the people. Beautify the facility they worship in. Make your church as nice as it can be.

10. CROSS DENOMINATIONAL BOUNDARIES (1 Corinthians 3:3-6)

Be a person of love, respect and fellowship. Do not become too insecure to be around someone who is different.

II. REACH OUT TO THE COMMUNITY AND BEYOND (Mark 16:15)

We cannot win "them" if we do not reach out to "them."

12. TEST THE LIMITS (Ephesians 3:20)

There are no limits to our God! As a believer and pastor, go as far as you can go, do as much as you can do, make your church as big as it can be, effectively minister to as many people as you can. Serve God!

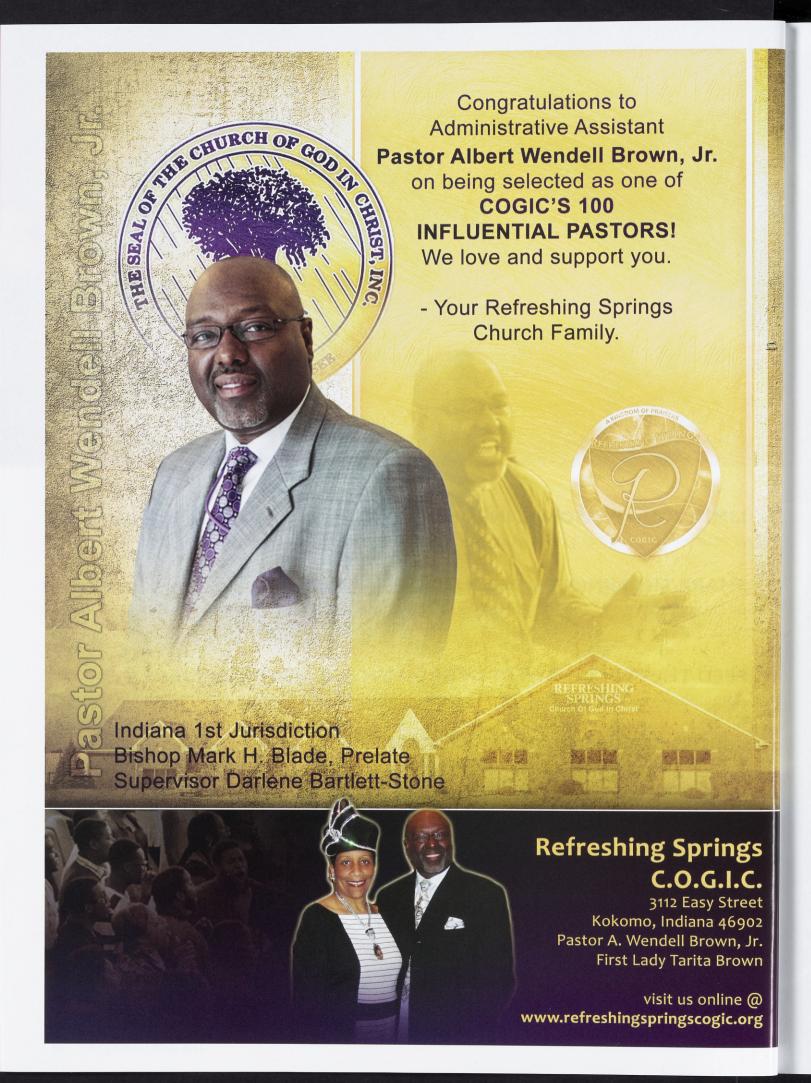
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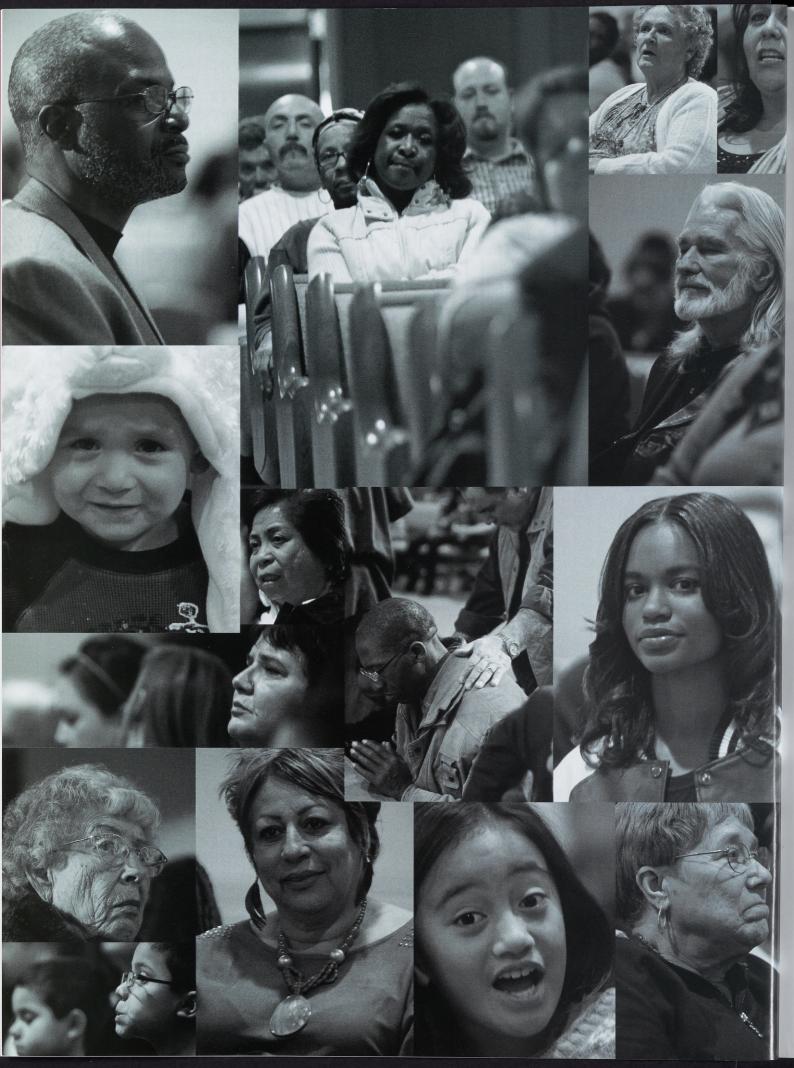


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Faith Temple COGIC of Rapid City, SD:

Finding A Home On The LONE PRAIRIE

By Elder Kyle Huckins, Ph.D.



in Rapid City, South Dakota moves rather slowly, contrary to the name. With only 70,000

people – just a few hundred of them black – it's not an urban mecca, but is home to one of the most multicultural Church of God In Christ congregations in the nation.

"It is a church for all people. If we were going to

survive, we had to have all people," explains South Dakota Bishop Lorenzo Kelly, 71, founder of Rapid City's Faith Temple Church of God in Christ and its pastor for nearly a third of a century.

While the church is a bit smaller than in its heyday, about 100 people come each Sunday, with attendees including Caucasians, Asians and Native Americans, as well as African-Americans.

The mixing of races at Faith Temple



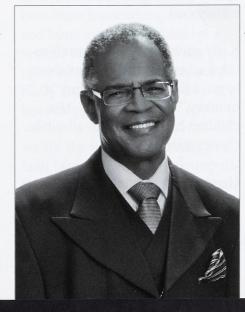
wasn't what Kelly expected when he came to the Mount Rushmore State, but he likes it just fine. "The Church of God in Christ has to learn how to reach all people; we need to turn the music down or

sing something people know, something besides 'I'm a Soldier in the Army of the Lord," he said.

The church began as a thought in the mind of Sister Barnetta Pearson, a longtime family friend and mem-

ber of the congregation of the late Washington State Bishop Thomas Lee Westbrook. Her husband was stationed at Ellsworth Air Force Base, located just 10 miles northeast of Rapid City. She lobbied her new prelate, Bishop Carlis Moody, Sr., for an elder to start a Church of God In Christ mission in her area.

In January 1982, Moody sent Kelly, an elder in his church in Evanston, IL, to preach at the base. "I had never seen people hungry for the gospel before," Kelly recalls. "They followed



me to my host home. Those young people stayed with me all day until evening time, asking me all kinds of questions about the Bible and wanting to know what I meant about 'being saved' and 'being filled with the Holy Ghost.'"

The young preacher extended his engagement, drawing many to the altar and giving him the idea to move to the western locale. A death in the family temporarily

'Amen.' She loved that song. She was an alcoholic, but she came every night, so I sang it every night."

The next month, the elder came back with Moody to meet with a group of more than 50 who had signed a petition for the establishment of a local Church of God In Christ. At the gathering, the soonto-be church members insisted Kelly come as their pastor.

volved. Those at the local ministerial alliance meetings gave him the cold shoulder.

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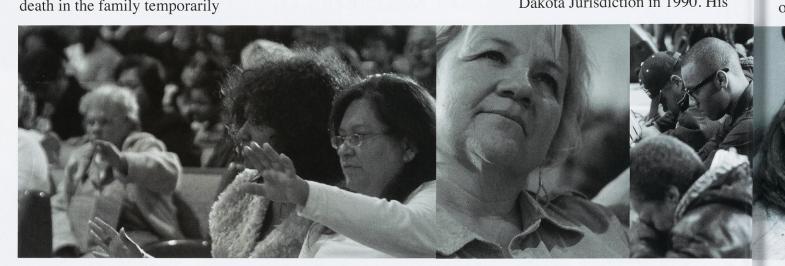
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He fasted more than 100 DAYS his first year out west to ward off attacks and keep full of Holy Spirit power. "People want to be anointed, but you pay for being anointed," he says.

Kelly became bishop of the South Dakota Jurisdiction in 1990. His



derailed his relocation, but Moody sent his protégé back to South Dakota in May 1982 for a week of revival services.

Moody's advocacy of reliance on the Holy Spirit was ingrained in Kelly. "Bishop Mason grew this church through signs and wonders and miracles," Moody says. "If we lose those, we become like anybody else, and we will do like anybody else. So we have to keep the Acts of the Apostles active in our churches."

God's moving was evident in that spring set of meetings, with eyesight restored, the deaf and dumb made to hear and see, and people saved.

"I got my first Native [American] member then," Kelly says. "She came to the Lord because I sang He obliged, quitting his lucrative job as associate vice president of an Illinois bank. At Faith Temple's first service, Aug. 1, 1982, more than 100 attended.

The church continued to strengthen, getting its own building within 18 months and paying off its note by its eighth anniversary. However, the spiritual blessing wasn't without an earthly cost.

Kelly spoke at an area church-related school, and as he was about to go, a little boy called him "a monkey," the bishop says. His children had to adjust to all-white classes too.

He says that at one revival, Pentecostal Caucasians refused to pray for those visiting the altar, perhaps due to other ethnicities being inpeople have started churches in several communities around the sparsely populated state, but a work in Sioux Falls is the only congregation surviving, besides the prelate's.

"Because we are a holiness church, I think that we are sometimes looked upon as strict. That sets us apart from the other churches in the community,"

explains Elder Troy Carr, 51, who is Kelly's assistant pastor. "Of course being a city's only 'black church' – even if but half or so of the membership is African-American – can be a negative to some," Carr adds.

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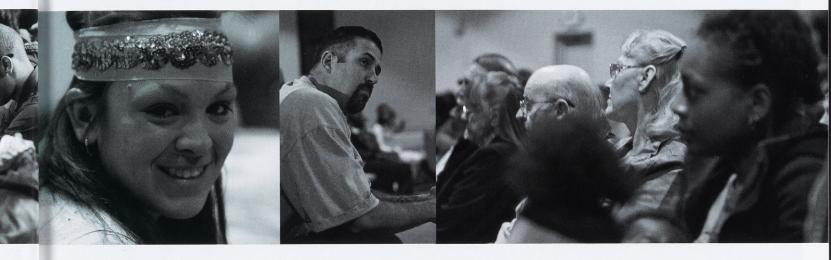
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Still, Kelly and Carr agree Faith Temple has a high and positive profile in Rapid City. The church places ads across the region, but contributing more to its reputation is its work on behalf of the poor, homeless and without a musician. There is the occasional sermonic solo, then Kelly preaches. The prelate generally has worshipers out within 90 minutes. The length of the meeting matters less to Kelly than whether the Spirit is moving or not. He says he will go whichever way, short or long, the Lord leads.

Bishop Kelly also speaks nationally and internationally, due to many of his members starting their own God has given Bishop to do. God has been able to speak to him and develop plans and programs that are unique, that are not a typical COGIC setting," says the assistant pastor. "That has let us minister to a variety of people who wouldn't usually go to a COGIC in Dallas or New York or in Detroit...a blessing, if someone was asking me."



incarcerated, as well as troubled youth and those in nursing homes. Also helping is the willingness of the leadership to accommodate cultural differences. When Kelly announced the first church picnic, "there was a lot of whispering among the people," the bishop says.

Why? They wanted to know if his First Lady would wear pants to the outing at Custer State Park. She didn't own any, but a female member outfitted her and she donned them for the visit. "The women, most of them worked at the base and had to wear pants every day," Kelly says. "They wanted to know if there would be a place for them here, in the church."

A typical Sunday has the service starting with songs supplied by tapes, since the church currently is churches as the military moves them around the globe. "Bishop is spiritual great-grandfather for many churches that have started around the country," Carr says.

Recent years have been hard, as health problems claimed one of Kelly's three sons in 2008 and his wife just a few months ago. But he is excited to be greeting brandnew church attendees, members and born-again Christians on a regular basis. "I love having the spice of a multicultural church," Kelly says. "That's the way heaven's going to be."

As for the isolation of being in a land far removed from metropolitan fellowship, Carr says that can be a plus.

"We're really able to listen to what

Kyle Huckins is an elder in the Church of God in Christ. He holds an earned doctorate in journalism and has done significant graduate work in religion. The winner of awards in small, medium and large markets in a 25-year media career, Huckins is a journalism professor at Azusa Pacific University.

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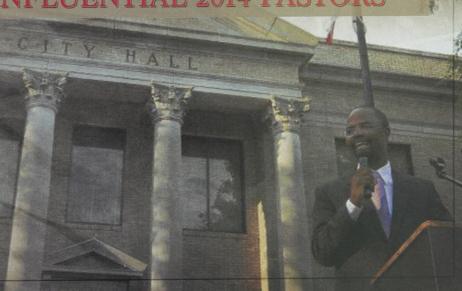
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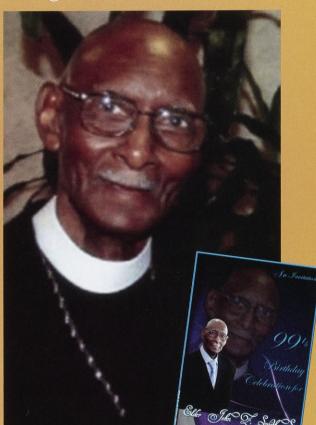
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The Whole Truth SALUTES

Near Centurion

Elder Smith is a lifelong member of the Church of God in Christ



On Sunday, March 30, 2014, a jubilant celebration service went forth to honor the most seasoned, active adjutant overseer in the Church of God in Christ, Elder John Zachariah Smith, Sr. By God's grace, abundance and favor, Elder Smith was recently blessed to see 99 years of life on Monday, March 31, 2014.

Hosted by the Smith and Ellerson families, the near centurion's birthday gala was held at Good Samaritan Cathedral Church of God in Christ in Oakland, CA where Bishop Donald R. Murray is pastor and jurisdictional prelate. The beloved Elder Smith was enriched by family and friends who reveled in the theme, "The Source of Life," taken from John 10:10, "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly."

Elder Smith is a lifelong member of the Church of God in Christ. He is a member of Good

Samaritan Cathedral COGIC and the chief adjutant for California North-Central Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction. Elder Smith has maintained association and membership with the Adjutant Corpsince 1998. In November 2002, he received a plaque

from the National Adjutant Corp recognizing him as the "Oldest Active Adjutant Overseer" in the Church of God in Christ. And yet, 12 blessed years later, God has allowed his life to continue and thrive!

The Whole Truth salutes Elder John Zachariah Smith for contributing unparalleled commitment and service to the church and for being a shining example to the Body of Christ. We wish Elder Smith an exuberantly happy birthday and pray that God's gift of long life will carry him on.



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I met Jonathan O'Hara in 1989 while serving as an assistant pastor at Crenshaw Christian Center with Dr. Frederick Price. Jonathan along with Dr. Price hosted a Church Development Conference at Crenshaw to share with pastors and leaders church development principles. I have found Jonathan to be a true leader and a person of strict integrity. I highly recommend Jonathan and CDC Network to assist you in your ministry needs.

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The 21st Century Prospective Parishioter

A Critical View for Pastors

By Professor Jà Hon Vance

In this thriving 21st Century,

African Americans are extremely serious about their cultural heritage, specifically the Black church. Certainly, the Black Pentecostal church served as a viable passport for career advancement, civic responsibility, educational training, political change, social awareness and spiritual enhancement. However, there is indeed a new perspective from African American parishioners who are exposed to the art of thinking critically and spiritual leadership. In doing so, this "old but new" parishioner has become exposed to the essence of utilizing the art of critical thinking to structure his professional career. At the same time, he examines the necessity of what is needed to foster and nurture his spiritual growth as a Christian.

Although the Black church is recognized and respected as the central source within the African American community, pastors must reexamine what is needed to attract new parishioners, while retaining the current parishioners. In doing so, it is imperative that pastors grasp the understanding of spiritual leadership. Presently, the term spiritual leadership is defined as the leading and training of an individual by use of the Holy Bible as guidance for intimate development and personal growth (JV Educational). Seemingly, constructive and proactive leaders are creative, knowledgeable and savvy. At the same

time, however, they are apt and able to realize that problems will occur at any given time. The skilled leader or pastor will have viable solutions in place when traumatic situations occur, which ensures that the leader serves actively as being proactive rather than reactive!

Therefore, the better question to the pastor is, "What is your plan of leadership?" Of course, it is recorded in the oral narratives throughout the African American history annals that the Black pastor once served as a respectable leader who simply led and trained the local parishioners to seek the Lord at all times. while modeling by example that education was the bridge to the next level of success on earth, by God's favor (JV Educational).

Now there is the new wave of parishioners who are moving aggressively, and traveling across the country, due to the rapid change in their educational advancements and professional careers, which has caused memberships to become transit. It is without doubt that parishioners presently possess an insatiable desire to be encouraged and supported by their pastors with the belief and hope of experiencing and receiving continuous spiritual growth and training. Thus, the 21st Century parishioner has become extremely proactive in conducting "church research" before agreeing to become a dedicated member of any Black church.

ner and the Black Pentecostal Church:

Hence, if the prospective parishioner is interested in the church, the next step that he or she will take is to seek answers to the following sample questions:

- How do you minister to your local and surrounding community?
- How do you minister to your parishioner who travels extensively (due to work)?
 - What is your definition of leadership?
 - What is your church's mission statement?
 - What are the spiritual goals for the church?
 - What are the spiritual goals for the members?
 - What is your teaching philosophy statement?
 - What type of training/leadership programs (accredited professional programs) are in place at your church?
 - What is your vision for your parishioners?
- Where do you see the Church (meaning the parishioners and the church organizational structures and ministries) in the next ten years?

Yes, this may be new for many pastors, but it is a refining process that parishioners are using as a guide before joining a church. Pastors must be ready and willing to address "all" chief concerns from this 21st Century parishioner.

In this 21st Century, pastors should understand that many prospective parishioners search diligently for ten quality leadership characteristics of potential pastors. These characteristics demonstrate that he is called to the field of ministry by serving as a pastor who is compassionate, able to lead, humble, experienced in serving, educated, proactive and spiritual. Although there are various models of quality leadership used in Christian Education presently, JV Educational has researched and defined ten quality leadership characteristics that prospective parishioners seek:

- **1. Civic Humanitarians** Leaders are civic-minded and not only aware of the issues that are pertinent to people in their communities, but possess empathy for others and actively seek ways to meet the specific needs of others.
- **2. Competent Communicators** Leaders communicate clearly in order to lead more effectively. They have worked to develop communicating skills and value these skills as motivators, stimulating growth in others; as apologists, defending truth; and as emissaries, calling for societal change.

- **3. Commitment to Continuous Learning** (Life-Long Learners) Leaders are people who understand that the pursuit of knowledge and understanding is a lifelong quest. They attempt to continually seek, learn and understand the issues and ideas that permeate our world.
- **4. Critical Thinkers** Leaders who are critical thinkers understand the need to process, analyze, synthesize and conceptualize information in light of principled morality, prior to taking action or formalizing beliefs.
- **5. Ethical and Moral** Leaders' beliefs and actions are born out of an ethical standard that considers the needs of others above their own. Even in the face of tremendous pressure and personal adversity, a leader will act with honesty and integrity.
- **6. Loyal Stewards** Dedicated and loyal stewards understand the need to utilize all aspects of creation properly. Financial, intellectual, physical and emotional resources should be developed and used in the way they were designed to be used.
- **7. Reflective Practitioner** Reflecting on their own strengths and weaknesses, leaders should utilize all available resources to achieve the goal at hand and invest themselves in challenging, difficult and meaningful work.
- **8. Savvy Entrepreneurs** Leaders are not afraid to take risks and are willing to involve themselves in endeavors that have the potential for both success and failure. Failure, within a supportive environment, although painful, offers tremendous opportunities for growth and development and should not be viewed as terminal.
- **9. Spiritual Disciples** Christian leaders are committed, above all, to God. This consistent commitment is integrated into all areas and aspects of their lives.
- **10. Visionary** Leaders create an atmosphere of inspiration and hope that breathes life into others and motivates them to pursue a beneficial goal that was once thought to be unattainable.

Finally, if today's pastors are going to attract and retain parishioners who are willing to join and actively serve in the Black church, they must be prepared to provide viable tools of spiritual support and training, as well as demonstrate that they are available, educated, spiritual, and life-long spiritual and secular learners.

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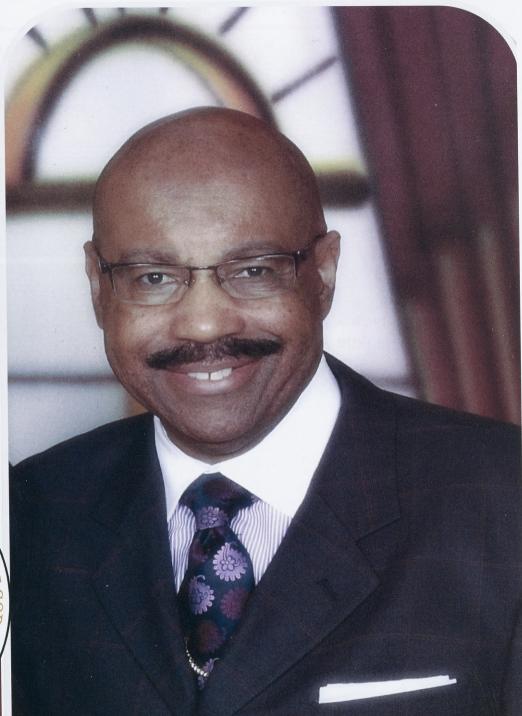
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Professor Jà Hon Vance is Executive Director and Vice President of Teaching and Learning at JV Educational Consultants (www.jveducational.org).

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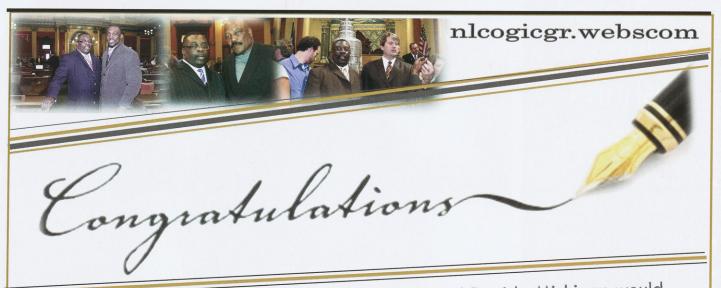




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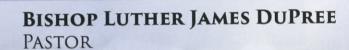
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Dr. Charles Moore

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By Wesley Lambert

Charles Moore has always had a desire to impact the lives of others. This dream eventually led him to pursue an undergraduate degree at Union College (Schenectady, NY) and receive a medical degree from the prestigious Harvard Medical School (Boston, MA). Today, Dr. Moore is a practicing physician, specializing in Otolaryngology, the study of conditions and diseases of the ear, nose and throat.

Dr. Moore remembers that his first scholarship came from COGIC's Business and Professional Women's Organization. That contribution to his education impacted him so much that he still has the certificate framed in his office.

Dr. Moore was born in Syracuse, NY and attended Brotherly Love COGIC, a church founded in the basement of his aunt's house. He recounts that growing up in a small church meant that you were involved in everything. He says, "[COGIC] has always been the primary 'fabric' of my life. It has created the foundation of who I am and how I relate to people."

His compassionate practice of medicine led him to travel around to many underserved communities in Atlanta and operate a free clinic out of the back of his own vehicle. While visiting these areas, he noticed that African-American communities were disproportionately impacted by cancers of the head and neck. While mulling what he could do to alleviate these disparities, he founded the HEALing Center, a non-profit health center located in southwest Atlanta. The center is devoted to providing low and no-cost health services to those who are most in need.



"Our focus is to provide [H]ealth [E]ducation while [A]ssessing the needs of the community, and together with the community work to build [L]eaders who will address their needs. Hence, the acronym HEAL is derived from Health Education, Assessment and Leadership."

This non-profit health center was recently awarded a \$1.4 million dollar grant from the federal government to continue its vital work. Congressman John Lewis was on hand to present the check to Dr.

can work with academic institutions, other community organizations, and/or individuals, to promote good health practices. No action is too small." Currently, Dr. Moore serves as chief of service



for the Otolaryngology Department at Grady Hospital in Atlanta, Georgia, one of the largest public hospital systems in the United States. Dr. Moore also serves as a professor of Otolaryngology at Emory University and the co-chair for Emory University's Urban Health Initiative at Grady. He is also founder and President of the HEALing Center.



His COGIC ties are still

strong. He is a proud member of Greater Community COGIC (Marietta, GA), under the inspirational leadership of Elder Matthew L. Brown. At Greater Community, he sings in the gospel choir and serves as a vital member of the Music and Worship Arts Ministry.

Moore and recognized the unique role that facilities like the HEALing Center play in providing affordable care to some of our poorest communities. This ceremony was also followed by a ground breaking ceremony for a new community garden a few blocks away from the HEALing Center. The community garden, which will provide locally grown vegetables and produce for an inner-city grocery store, will also provide an essential component in closing the loop of comprehensive healthcare and its relation to proper nutrition.

In assessing the role that churches can play in the healthcare arena, Dr. Moore says that "COGIC and other denominations are a huge resource that can be an avenue to connect with communities to provide health information and access to healthcare. They

Wesley Lambert, a member of the National Public Relations Staff for COGIC, is employed by the Federal Government as a Public Affairs Officer and serves as Director of Communications for his local church, Greater Community COGIC in Marietta, Georgia.



Pastor for being recognized as one of the COGIC 100 influential Pastors for 2014!

Sunday School 9:00 am
Sunday Morning Worship 11:30 am
Tuesday Bible Study 7:00 pm

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"Where There is Strength"

Unity Temple

Church of God In Christ - Brooklyn Center, MN Salutes:

Pastor Ezra James Fagge'Tt

As One of 100 Influential Pastors of The Church of God in Christ

Since 1987, the congregation of Unity Temple Church of God In Christ has been blessed to truly have a Shepherd after God's own heart. Originally from Greenwood, Mississippi, Pastor Ezra J. Fagge'Tt born the youngest of seven children to Ephram, Sr. and Corine Meeks-Fagge'Tt; along with his grandmother, Mother Willie Banks-Meeks, who helped shaped his life in the Lord at a very young age.

Pastor Fagge'Tt has been faithfully ministering the Word of God since 1976. He is an enthusiastic anointed preacher, who loves God, His Word, and has an ever present passion and love for all the children of God. Pastor Fagge'Tt holds a BS Degree in Ministry and a Master of Arts in Theological Studies from Northwestern College, Arden Hills, MN.

Pastor Fagge'Tt has been married since 1980 to Patricia (Starks) Fagge'Tt, and has been blessed with two sons, Ezra II, Eric, and two daughters, Corrin, and Carah; whom are all involved in the ministry of Unity Temple.

or





Unity Temple is founded on the word of God, prayer, praise, and yoked with faith that God is "Building by Love".

It is our goal to not only impact the cities of Brooklyn Center and Minneapolis, but to reach the state of Minnesota and fulfill our vision for the world.

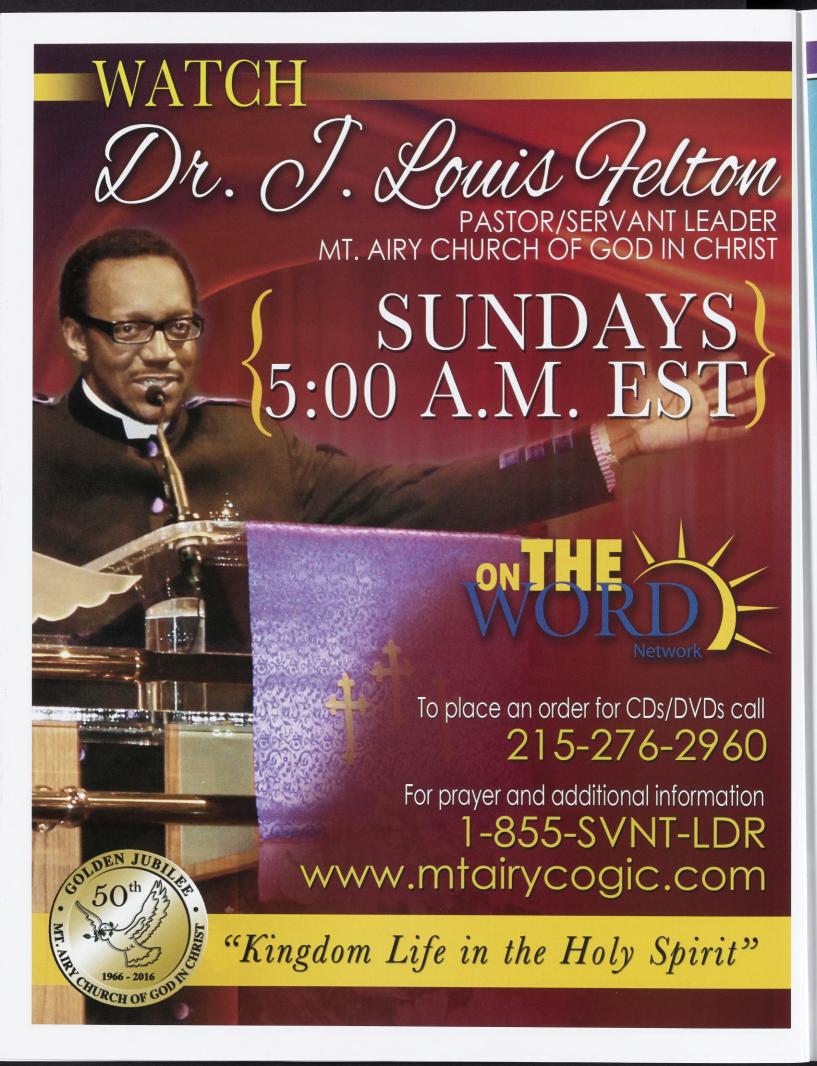
Unity Temple has several active ministries.

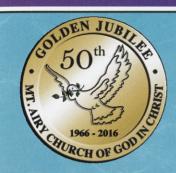
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Servant Leader Dr.J. Louis Felton

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BISHOP ERNEST C. MORRIS, SR., FOUNDER EVANGELIST PRISCILLA E. FELTON, FIRST LADY EVANGELIST WINIFRED MORRIS, CHURCH MOTHER

THE MT. AIRY COGIC FAMILY

PRESENTING:



Nominated by

By Chairman David George Newsome

nd he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evange lists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love" - (Ephesians 4:11-16, KJV).

Pastors play a significant role in the lives of believers. For 107 years, we have been blessed in the Church of God in Christ with tremendous leadership. We pause on this the 150th year of the anniversary of our founder's birth to highlight the vital and important position of the pastor. From Bishop Charles Harrison Mason to Bishop Charles Edward Blake, we have had seven chief apostles or lead pastors. Bishop CH Mason, Bishop Ozro Thurston Jones, Sr., Bishop James Oglethorpe Patterson, Sr., Bishop Louis Henry Ford, Bishop Chandler David Owens, Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson and now, the seventh in succession, Bishop CE Blake, have lead us according to the Word and will of God. We are forever grateful.

In addition to the seven leaders of our church, we have been blessed with tremendously anointed and godly leadership, at various levels within COGIC, from men serving the local churches as the under-shepherd or pastor.

We asked and you certainly responded. In late December 2013, TWT advertised for our readers to nominate their pastor to be included in a special edition of The Whole Truth. On the following pages, you will see the results of our call for the 100 Influential COGIC Pastors. Literally, thousands of nominations were received (trust me I know, I counted them...praise God). The nominations were very enlightening for the selection committee to see what great and marvelous things were occurring in various COGIC churches across the nation and the world.

The criterion was simple: The pastor had to be in good standing with their COGIC jurisdiction, as well as with the national church. TWT did their due diligence to ensure that this was the case with each selected pastor. All requested information had to be submitted via an online portal, and the nominator had to write an essay, up to 500 words, describing for the selection committee why their pastor should be included in this year's 100.

The selection committee, comprised of various persons across the country, evaluated each nomination according to established rubric on a scale of 1-30. All of the essays were then ranked and the top 100 chosen. The response was so overwhelming that we have had to add a special section that we have entitled, *Pastors You Need to Know*. All of the honorees are featured on the following pages.

Certainly with 12,000 pastors in the U.S. and 59 countries around the world, this list is not meant to be an exhaustive, inclusive or exclusive list. This is simply the list of fine servants of the Lord from the nominations we received this year. There are innumerous pastors who were not nominated but are undoubtedly influential in their local, state and even national/international places.

in Christ. I speak of none other than the presiding bishop and chief apostle, the members of the General Board, the general secretary, the financial secretary, the general treasurer and the chairman of the General Assembly . . .

As chairman of this special program, I would like to begin the naming of those we are recognizing this year by starting with our key, influential leadership within the Church of God



Presentation of the Presidium

and the General Officers

of the Church of God in Christ

By Sonya Bradford and Monique Fowlkes





THE MOST REVEREND CHARLES E. BLAKE, SR.

Presiding Bishop and Chief Apostle
Pastor, West Angeles Church of God In Christ
Los Angeles, CA

residing Bishop Charles E. Blake was appointed pastor of West Angeles Church of God in Christ in 1969. Forty-five years later, a membership of 50 people has swelled to more than 25,000 congregants because an exceptional leader believed God for greater. Bishop Blake began to work the vision God had given him and watched the membership grow exponentially. Within fifteen years, West Angeles had moved to a new location and started expansion projects at its new site under Bishop Blake's influential leadership.

By 1987, the expansion projects were complete, the West Angeles Christian Bookstore was open for business, and the West Angeles Bible College had started its inaugural classes. Not only that, West Angeles had established a Counseling Department and the West Angeles Christian Academy had experienced unprecedented growth. When West Angeles had peaked to conducting five services a Sunday, Bishop Blake knew it was time to build again. On April 28, 2001, West Angeles Cathedral held its first service in its new 5,000-seat sanctuary. In light of Bishop Blake's extraordinary success, West Angeles has been recognized as one of the fastest growing churches in the nation, with extensive ministry and outreach services, including television and radio broadcasts.

On November 12, 2007, Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. was elected the seventh in succession presiding bishop by the General Assembly of the Church of God in Christ, Inc. At the 105th Holy Convocation during the quadrennial election in 2012, Bishop Blake was re-elected as Presiding Bishop for another four-year term. Bishop Blake is recognized as one of the greatest preachers of this generation with a message that ministers to the whole person and brings together people of various racial and ethnic backgrounds.

In response to the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa, Bishop Blake founded, and is president of, the Pan African Children's Fund (PACF). Save Africa's Children, a program of PACF, has provided support to over 420 orphan care programs, 200,000 children and 24 nations throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

Second only to his call as a minister of the Gospel, Bishop Blake says his most treasured accomplishments are those of a devoted husband to Lady Mae Lawrence Blake, and a loving father and grandfather to their three children and eight grandchildren.



THE RIGHT REVEREND PHILLIP AQUILLA BROOKS, II

First Assistant Presiding Bishop
Prelate, Michigan Northeast
Pastor, New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God In Christ
Detroit, Michigan

umble, inspiring and touchable, Bishop P.A. Brooks, II serves as First Assistant Presiding Bishop to Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake, Sr. He is the third longest serving Michigan Bishop of the historic First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction - Northeast Michigan Jurisdiction Church of God in Christ. Pastor and Founder of New St. Paul Tabernacle Church of God in Christ, his ecumenical and civic leadership has been a beacon in Detroit and surrounding communities for more than half a century.

Founder of Grandmont-Rosedale Christian School and Daycare, and President of the New St. Paul Non-Profit Housing Corporation, Bishop Brooks compassionately serves the people of God far beyond the four walls of the church. As a progressive leader, Bishop Brooks played an integral role in the establishment of Faith Community Mortgage Company LLC, the first black-owned mortgage company within the Church of God in Christ.

As an accomplished author, Bishop Brooks co-authored "Understanding Bible Doctrine as Taught in the Church of God in Christ", a text that has served as the bedrock for examining Church of God in Christ doctrine and is often used as a prerequisite for candidates of ordination.

Bishop Brooks was inducted into the International Gospel Musical Hall of Fame and Museum in 2006 for his role as Music Department President and for his accomplished musicianship.

Bishop Brooks is married to Missionary Doris Brooks, having daughter, Evangelist Faithe Brooks and son, Minister Phillip Brooks III.



THE RIGHT REVEREND JERRY WAYNE MACKLIN

Second Assistant Presiding Bishop
Prelate, NorCal Metropolitan
Pastor, Glad Tidings Church of God In Christ
Hayward, CA

ishop Jerry Wayne Macklin is a native of San Mateo, CA and the founder and pastor of Glad Tidings Church of God in Christ in Hayward, CA. Under the headship of Bishop Macklin, Glad Tidings COGIC maintains great influence within its Northern California community, with over 50 active ministries.

Since 1998, Bishop Macklin has served as Prelate of Norcal Metropolitan Jurisdiction. In 2004, he was elected to the General Board and currently serves in the capacity of Second Assistant Presiding Bishop of the Church of God in Christ. Bishop Macklin has served in various other capacities for the national church, including International Sunday School Superintendent and as Founding Chairman of the Auxiliaries in Ministry (AIM) Convention.

Bishop Macklin is known for being impassioned about his community, making every effort to impact it positively. He established the Northern California Community Development Corporation (NCCD), where he worked with neighborhood and city officials to do a major revitalization of the South Hayward, CA community. He is also Chairman of the Barnabas Project, a group of 30 Bay Area churches whose main focus is urban ministry.

Bishop Macklin has received numerous accolades and awards, including the Bay Area's Most Influential African-American Clergyman award in 2000. In fact, the influence of Bishop Macklin's ministry can be found in the Congressional Record of the 107th Congress, February 2002, Volume 148.

Bishop Macklin is married to First Lady Vanessa Wells Macklin. Together, they have three daughters and two sons.



THE RIGHT REVEREND ROY L.H. WINBUSH

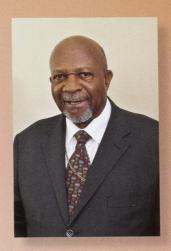
Assistant Secretary to the General Board
Prelate, Louisiana First
Pastor, Gethsemane Church of God In Christ
Lafayette, Louisiana

ishop Roy L.H. Winbush, a life-long servant of the Church of God in Christ, has pastored Gethsemane Church of God in Christ in Lafayette, Louisiana for more than 50 years. In 1983, on his road to longevity, he was appointed prelate of the First Jurisdiction of Louisiana. During the 81st Holy Convocation in November of 1988, Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush was elected to the Church of God in Christ's General Board and currently serves as the Board's assistant secretary.

In 1979, Bishop Winbush, along with his wife Dr. Mae C. Winbush, established the Gethsemane Christian Academy in Lafayette, which serves kindergarten through 8th grade students. Together, they also instituted the LaPetite Academy, a development center for newborn children through four years of age. Advancing their commitment to education, the Winbushes moved on to co-found the Roy-Mae Winbush School in Haiti. Bishop Winbush is the organizer of the Winbush Bible Institute, which was constructed for the training of Christian workers. Further displaying his inventive spirit, Bishop Winbush organized the COGIC Credit Union, which is state chartered, and he founded the COGIC Visitor and the Good Shepherd, monthly newspapers for the church ministry jurisdictional-wide. Out of mounting concern for the future of dedicated state workers, Bishop Winbush also developed the pastoral insurance and widow's endowment programs within the First Jurisdiction of Louisiana.

Within the national Church of God in Christ, Bishop Winbush has served in numerous capacities, including editor-in-chief of the Sunday School Quarterlies, director of curriculum for the C.H. Mason System of Bible Colleges, president of the National Publishing Board, and former chairman of the United National Auxiliaries Convention (UNAC), now known as the Auxiliaries in Ministry (AIM) Convention.

Bishop Winbush exemplifies solid leadership. He is an industrious and astute worker who has proven to be a servant of God and devoted family man. Bishop Winbush is married to Dr. Mae C. Winbush and is the father of two married daughters, Vanessa W. Gatlin and Odessa W. Scott, and is grandfather of three grandsons and two granddaughters.



THE RIGHT REVEREND GEORGE DALLAS MCKINNEY

Prelate, California Southern Second
Pastor, St. Stephens Cathedral Church of God In Christ
San Diego, CA

orn August 9, 1932 in Jonesboro, Arkansas to the son of a sharecropper, Bishop George Dallas McKinney overcame the obstacles of humble beginnings and has emerged as one of the most noted and sought after theologians of our time. He is the senior pastor of St. Stephen's Cathedral Church of God in Christ in San Diego, CA, which he founded in 1962, along with his late wife, Dr. Jean C. McKinney. Since 1985, Bishop McKinney has served as jurisdictional prelate of the Southern California Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction and in November 2001, was elevated to the General Board of the Church of

God in Christ. He was subsequently re-elected to three consecutive terms.

Bishop McKinney holds a B.A. from Arkansas State College, where he graduated with magna cum laude distinction, an M.A. from Oberlin College School of Theology, a Ph.D. from California Graduate School of Theology, and was awarded an honorary D.D. from Geneva College. He also studied Social Work at the University of Michigan, Graduate School of Social Work. He has authored a total of eight books; the most recent being "The New Slave Masters" (published in 2005).

In August of 2008, on his 76th Birthday, Bishop McKinney was wed Attorney Barbara Jo "BJ" Warren. Their beautifully blended family now consists of 6 sons and 15 grandchildren.

"Hitherto hath the Lord brought him."



THE RIGHT REVEREND NATHANIEL WYOMING WELLS, JR.

Prelate, Michigan Western Pastor, Holy Trinity Institutional Church of God In Christ Benton Harbor, Michigan

Meet the man with a vision. Bishop Nathaniel Wyoming Wells could be described as a modern day Daniel. It is not because he has been in the lion's den, but because he, like the prophet of old, understands the times. He is a preacher's kid by birth, a child of God by choice and an esteemed leader of his

church and community by the grace of God. Bishop Wells is prelate of the Western Michigan Jurisdiction. This man of the cloth uses his God-given wisdom to shepherd a congregation of nearly 2,000 members. He is simultaneously responsible for the oversight of the 36 pastors that serve under his covering.

For more than three decades, he has labored in his church to help it grow in the wisdom and knowledge of God. As a result, God has given the increase and expanded the church's mission beyond the church walls. As the pastor of Holy Trinity Institutional Church in Muskegon, Michigan, Bishop Wells refuses to be a pastor where the congregation is only fed spiritually. He is concerned about the whole man and promotes a Total Man Ministry, the title of his home ministry.

This two-term member of the General Board was recognized as the Most Influential Person of the Year in Muskegon, Michigan in 2003. The award is a direct result of his management of multiple non-profit housing corporations that resulted in 17 family and senior housing projects throughout various Michigan cities, as well as in Indianapolis and LaPorte, Indiana.

Bishop Wells is married to the lovely Mary Ann Houston Wells, and is the loving father of six and the grandfather of twelve.



THE RIGHT REVEREND SEDGWICK DANIELS

Prelate, Wisconsin Southeast First
Pastor, Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God In Christ
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

ishop Sedgwick Daniels founded Holy Redeemer Institutional Church of God in Christ in 1986. Foreshadowing the innovative and progressive mind of Bishop Daniels, Holy Redeemer purchased a new sanctuary within eight weeks of its first service and by 1987, burned the mortgage on the new church and moved forward with the vision to further expand the ministry.

In 2001, Bishop Daniels was appointed prelate of the Wisconsin First Jurisdiction. By then, he had already blazed a trail of success as a pastor and visionary leader. During the 101st Holy Convocation in November of 2008, Bishop Sedgwick Daniels was elected to the Church of God in Christ's General Board. Through Bishop Daniel's prolific preaching and progressive programs, his congregation embraces thousands of weekly parishioners to the Holy Redeemer campus, which houses a senior citizen's housing complex; Mason Health Clinic; Holy Redeemer Community Credit Union; COGIC Social Service Agency; Holy Redeemer Christian Academy (Grades K-8); Young-Coggs University Preparatory Academy (serving middle and high school youth); Kathryn T. Daniels Charter School; Daniels-Mardak Boys and Girls Club; Bishop's Creek Housing Development; Ford, Owens, Winbush, Porter, and Wilkerson Youth Residency Tower; Saints Heritage Children's Orphanage; Iglehart, Bellamy, Tatum Community Prayer Tower and Rotunda; 20 Heritage Homes (for the homeless and family reunification); health and fitness center; Hudson-Herron Ministers Institute; and an Educational Consortium for diverse educational advancement. All of these achievements were established by Bishop Sedgwick Daniels and without question, carried out by the grace of God.

Additionally, Bishop Daniels currently incorporates his business acumen and religious insight through diverse board directorship and ecumenical stewardship on more than 15 prestigious organizations and corporations within the city of Milwaukee and beyond. Internationally, Bishop Daniels' non-profit efforts have extended to Haiti, Africa, Mexico, Jamaica, China and Singapore. Bishop Sedgwick Daniels continues to exemplify his belief that "There is nothing too hard for God!"



THE RIGHT REVEREND FRANK OTHA WHITE

Prelate, New York Eastern Third
Pastor, Zion Cathedral Church of God In Christ
New York, New York

rilliantly favored among noble men, South Carolinian native, Bishop Frank Otha White is the principal architect of the towering Freeport landmark, the Zion Cathedral Church of God in Christ, whose royal structure stands tall across the skyline of Long Island's South Shore in New York.

Under Bishop White's pastorate, Zion's membership has grown to well over 1,500 actively involved members, in more than 25 fully operational ministries. Along with this visible contribution to the religious community, Bishop White is both a spiritual father and friend to the entire ecumenical community.

He is the Founding President of the Conference of Clergy of Long Island. The scope of service which Bishop White fulfills with distinction touches upon every vital theme of Long Island Life.

Bishop White, who holds the appointment of Honorary Deputy Mayor of Freeport, is the recipient of a broad library of citations and awards from nearly every level of government, business, religion, education, civic life and community relations.

Nationally, Bishop White is credited with completely upgrading the operations of the Office of the Financial Secretary of the Church of God in Christ, adapting its administrative functions to the most efficient use of technology, business management and fiscal analysis.

Bishop White is the loving husband of Dr. Juliet L. White, International Assistant Marshal of the Women's Department. Bishop and Mrs. White are the parents of one son, Dr. Frank Anthone White, Financial Secretary of the Church of God in Christ; four accomplished daughters, Sherri, Otha, Chakira, Yashima; and the grandparents of five.



THE RIGHT REVEREND J. DREW SHEARD

Prelate, Michigan North Central
Pastor, Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God In Christ
Detroit, Michigan

ishop J. Drew Sheard was installed as pastor of Greater Emmanuel Institutional Church of God in Christ in Detroit, Michigan in 1988. Only eight people were in attendance for his initial service, but that didn't discourage this visionary leader. Before long, the church began to prosper, as it periodically outgrew its home time and time again. On February 7, 2002, Greater Emmanuel purchased a spacious, 2,000-seat edifice located at 19190 Schaefer Highway in Detroit.

On August 29, 2010, Superintendent J. Drew Sheard was consecrated to the office of jurisdictional prelate of the Michigan North Central Jurisdiction. Just two years later, during the 105th Holy Convocation, Bishop J. Drew Sheard was one of four new bishops elected to the Church of God in Christ's General Board.

Bishop J. Drew Sheard has worked diligently and held various positions within the Church of God in Christ, both locally and nationally, including: choir director, chairman of the local and state youth departments, national adjutant overseer and executive secretary of the International Youth Department. During his tenure as International Youth Department president for the Church of God in Christ, the department instituted many new programs under his leadership, including: the formation of "Peersuaders," Young Women of Excellence (YWE), Young Men of Valor (YMV), the Young Excited and Saved Club (YES Club), and the implementation of area rallies leading up to the annual Music & Youth "MY" Convention. Bishop J. Drew Sheard also founded the C. D. Owens Scholarship, which assisted gifted and aspiring students entering college with their expenses. As Chairman of the Auxiliaries in Ministry Convention (AIM), he helped boost the convention's attendance and fiscal responsibility.

Bishop Sheard's accomplishments, coupled with his abundant love for and unfeigned devotion to God and the church, make his members confident that he is a leader capable of taking them to the next level of ministry. Bishop J. Drew Sheard is married to Evangelist Karen Clark Sheard. God blessed their union with two children, Kierra and J. Drew, II, and a grandson, Jacob Dillon.



THE RIGHT REVEREND BRANDON B. PORTER

Prelate, Tennessee Central
Pastor, Greater Community Temple Church of God In Christ
Memphis, Tennessee

ishop Brandon B. Porter was appointed pastor of Greater Grace Community Temple COGIC in Memphis, TN in 1991. It was then that his father, the late Bishop W.L. Porter, entrusted him with the church he had founded, and its congregation. As a prelude to the "great" leader Bishop Brandon B. Porter would become, he began serving as assistant pastor of Greater Allen Avenue COGIC in Jackson, TN in 1978, and was eventually elevated to pastor of Greater Victory Temple, also in the city of Jackson, in 1981.

In November 2012, Bishop Brandon B. Porter was elected to the Church of God in Christ's General Board. As an accomplished pastor, author, singer, songwriter, and evangelist, he has extensively traveled the nation sharing God's Word with God's people. Over the years, he has consistently served the Church of God in Christ in numerous capacities, along with his ascension to the General Board, including: district superintendent, vice chairman of the National Trustee Board, president of the International Youth Department, national director of Public Relations and Marketing, executive producer of the COGIC Today TV show and coordinator of Christmas in November. In 2009, he succeeded his father by becoming prelate of the Tennessee Central Jurisdiction.

Under Bishop Brandon B. Porter's leadership, the membership of Greater Community Temple COGIC has flourished to over 5,000, and the church has expanded to include an additional campus, located in East Memphis. Since becoming prelate of Tennessee Central, the jurisdiction has increased to well over 95 churches and continues to grow at a phenomenal rate. As a further testament to his success as a leader, Bishop Brandon B. Porter is also the CEO of several community developments in the Tennessee area.

Though having extensive ecclesiastical responsibilities, Bishop Brandon B. Porter still manages to spend quality time with his wife Melody and their two sons, Brandon II and Bryson.



THE RIGHT REVEREND TED G. THOMAS, SR.

Prelate, Virginia First
Pastor, New Community Temple Church of God In Christ
Portsmouth, Virginia

ishop Ted Thomas, Sr. was born in Raeford, North Carolina to the late Elder Simuel Thomas, Sr. and the late Mother Nancy Thomas. They chose to rear him in the "holiness" church and dedicated him to God from his birth.

Bishop Thomas accepted his call to the ministry and was licensed to preach in 1959. He served as Assistant Pastor of Clifton's Tabernacle Church of God in Christ in Norfolk, VA, and later became the pastor of New Community Church of God in Christ in Portsmouth, VA in 1967.

In the jurisdictional work, he stretched forth his hands to assist the redevelopment of the First Jurisdiction of the Church of God in Christ in Virginia as the Central District superintendent for 10 years, the State Young People's Willing Workers president for 5 years, founder of the Young People's Willing Workers Reporter (a quarterly publication), and the administrative assistant to the bishop for 8 years.

In 1984, he was chosen without rival to lead as prelate of the historic First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Virginia. Noting his loyalty to God, he caught the attention of the Presiding Bishop and the Board of Bishops elected him to serve for five consecutive terms as its secretary. In 1991, he extended his service to become the pastor of the St. Stephens Church of God in Christ in Virginia Beach, VA, and subsequently led them in a massive expansion and renovation project.

Bishop Thomas holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from Norfolk State University, a Master of Science Degree from Hampton University and Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Trinity Hall College.

Bishop Thomas is most proud of being the loving husband to the love of his life, Mother Charletta C. Thomas, and a devoted father to their six sons.



THE RIGHT REVEREND LAWRENCE M. WOOTEN, SR.

Prelate, Eastern Missouri Western Illinois Pastor, Williams Temple Church of God In Christ St. Louis, Missouri

ishop Lawrence M. Wooten was appointed pastor of Williams Temple Church of God in Christ in St. Louis, Missouri in 1979. Having faithfully served as 1st Assistant Pastor to Bishop Columbus Williams, founder of Williams Temple COGIC, Bishop Wooten was chosen to succeed his leader after his death.

During the 105th Holy Convocation in November of 2012, in his hometown of St. Louis, MO, Bishop Lawrence M. Wooten was elected as one of the newest members to the Church of God in Christ's General Board. In September of 2000, Bishop Wooten was appointed as prelate of the Eastern Missouri Western Illinois Jurisdiction. Under Bishop Wooten's leadership, Williams Temple COGIC was totally renovated and remodeled, including the magnificent stained glass window behind the pulpit which was designed by Bishop Wooten himself. Under Bishop Wooten's visionary leadership, the property surrounding Williams Temple has been revitalized as well.

Bishop Wooten, Ph.D., DD., served as an educator and administrator in the public school system for 30 years. He is responsible for the creation of a locally renowned Neighborhood Outreach Center, two charter schools and over forty-five outreach ministries which stem from Williams Temple. Bishop Lawrence Wooten is a proponent of both home and foreign missions. In October 2007, the Bishop L. M. Wooten Family Life Center opened to service the St. Louis community. Located in the inner city, the Bishop L. M. Wooten Family Life Center brings families together for fun and healthy activities, and was designed to decrease the crime rate and promote healthy living within the community. Bishop Wooten has also embraced Presiding Bishop Charles Blake's mission to "save Africa's children." Bishop and Lady Wooten have sponsored hundreds of orphans in Uganda, Africa, providing food, clothing, shelter and education.

Bishop Wooten's greatest vision is for souls; for he is often heard proclaiming "It's all about souls."



The General Officers

of the Church of God in Christ



BISHOP JOEL HARLEY LYLES, JR.

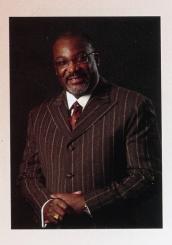
General Secretary
Prelate, Maryland Greater First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction
Pastor, Emmanuel Ministries Church of God In Christ
Baltimore, MD

Bishop Joel H. Lyles, Jr. has served as senior pastor of Emmanuel Ministries Church of God in Christ in Baltimore, Maryland for 20 years. He organized Emmanuel Ministries with just seven members in an inner city storefront. Today, Emmanuel Ministries comfortably sits on a 4.5 acre campus on the Baltimore City/Baltimore County border. Numerous educational, social and economic ministries are operated from the 11,000 sq. ft. edifice/office complex under Bishop Lyles' impeccable leadership. In April 2007, Bishop Lyles became the ninth General Secretary of the Church of God in Christ. In December 2007, after the death of Bishop David Washington Spann, Sr., Bishop Lyles was selected to succeed the late Bishop Spann as prelate of the Greater Maryland First Jurisdiction.

In addition to his pastoral duties, Bishop Lyles has served the Church of God in Christ in numerous capacities on the district, jurisdictional and national levels, including: secretary of the Northeastern District, Greater Maryland First Jurisdiction; administrative assistant & member of the Executive Committee, General Assembly; member of AIM executive staff; overseer of National Adjutancy, Church Of God In Christ; assistant general secretary/Administration; assistant jurisdictional secretary/jurisdictional secretary, Greater Maryland First Jurisdiction; assistant coordinator/secretary, Constitutional Convention; chairman, AIM 2003 Local Committee and chief of staff/executive administrative assistant, Greater Maryland First Jurisdiction.

Bishop Lyles has distinguished himself as an astute administrator, adept organizer and dedicated churchman. With a keen awareness of eternal values, Bishop Lyles is always cognizant of his calling and remains uncompromisingly faithful to the preaching of the gospel and to the foundational principles of the Church Of God In Christ.

Co-laboring with him in ministry is his wife, Vell Melissa Hayes Lyles. They are the proud parents of one daughter, Ashley Deborah Melissa Lyles.



BISHOP FRANK ANTHONE WHITE

Financial Secretary
Pastor, King's Chapel and Zion Cathedral Churches of God In Christ
Freeport, NY

A native of Long Island, New York, Bishop Frank Anthone White is the only son of Bishop Frank O. White and Dr. Juliet White, and the proud father of Jykolyn K. White. Bishop White is the pastor of King's Chapel Church of God in Christ in Southampton and Zion Cathedral Church of God in Christ in Freeport, where he serves alongside his father.

Having achieved corporate success as a Wall Street executive, with over a decade of experience in financial planning, Bishop White now invests his time and diverse talents into building the kingdom of God through molding Christian character in those entrusted to his pastoral care. His academic preparation is both thorough and diverse. He is a graduate of Five Towns College of Music, C. W. Post College at Long Island University, and M.K.W. Religious Training Institute. Versed in church history, Bishop White has lectured at Queens College, New York Theological Seminary and Cornell University.

In 1989, he founded FAW Ministries Inc. Under this ministry umbrella, Bishop White established the Preacher's Kids Fellowship Inc., a ministry designed to meet the unique needs of children whose parents are ministers of the gospel. Skillfully using the medium of revivals, crusades and concerts, he has guided countless individuals into a personal walk with the Lord.

Bishop White has served the Church Of God In Christ as a member of the National Trustee Board and Vice President of the International Music Department (2000-2008). Currently, Bishop White is serving in his 2nd term as the financial secretary for the Church of God in Christ. Bishop White is the president of the Zion Community Development Corporation, F.A.W. Insurance Agency, Music Quest, Inc., and vice president of the Cedarmore Foundation.



BISHOP-DESIGNEE C.H. MASON PATTERSON, SR.

General Treasurer
Pastor, Pentecostal Temple Church of God In Christ
Memphis, TN

Elder C.H. Mason Patterson, Sr. is continuing a legacy of service and progress on the foundation built by his forefathers. He is the great-grandson of his namesake, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, founder of the Church Of God In Christ. Elder Patterson has taken up the torch lit by his grandfather, the late Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr., COGIC's first elected presiding bishop, and his father, the late Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., former chairman of the General Assembly. He now serves as senior pastor of Pentecostal Temple Church of God in Christ.

Elder C. H. Mason Patterson was born September 11, 1976 to the union of the late Bishop J. O. Patterson, Jr. and the late Missionary Rose Kelly Patterson. He is the youngest of four children. He was born a leader. He accepted the call to the ministry at the early age of 16. In Aug. 1998, at the age of 21, he was ordained an elder in the Church of God in Christ.

Through his life and ministry, Elder Patterson has demonstrated a caliber of leadership well beyond his years. In November 2004, Elder Patterson was elected to the COGIC National Trustee Board, the youngest person ever to win a seat on the 15-member body. During his time as a member of the Trustee Board, he also served as the superintendent of National Properties. In April 2010, during the churches national April Call Meeting, Elder Patterson was appointed assistant treasurer of the national church. And during the November 2011 General Assembly, he was elected as the national treasurer of the Church of God in Christ.

He is a very high-spirited servant of Christ who daily devotes his life to fulfilling his calling. Following in the steps of his father, grandfather and great-grandfather, he prays, fasts, and studies the Word of God daily in an effort to further understand the work that God has called him to do. Elder Patterson wants nothing more than to have his cup run over with the love of God and the Spirit of the Holy Ghost. His ultimate desire is to have God's will fulfilled in his life.

The Patterson family has a long history of civic service to the city of Memphis and Elder Patterson is no exception. He is the president and CEO of the C.H. Mason Patterson Community Development Corporation, and former housing rehabilitation specialist for the City of Memphis Department of Housing and Community Development.

Elder Patterson studied Mortuary Science at the Northwest Community College in Desoto County, Mississippi and General Education Studies at Southwest Community College in Memphis. He also has a certificate in Biblical Studies from Crichton College in Memphis. He is currently seeking a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a concentration in Pastoral Care from Trinity Bible College.

Elder Patterson is the proud husband of LaShaundra Cox Patterson, affectionately known as "Bonnie," the father of two sons, Tyren and Charles Jr., and two daughters, Kelly Rose and Callie Indiana.



BISHOP-DESIGNEE JAMES W. HUNT

Chairman, General Assembly
Pastor, Ebenezer Church of God In Christ
Philadelphia, PA

Elder James W. Hunt, Sr. is pastor of Ebenezer Church of God in Christ in Philadelphia, PA. He is also superintendent of the Metropolitan District, Commonwealth Of Pennsylvania and chairman of General Assembly for the Church of God In Chris.

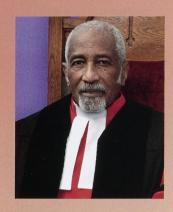
Born in Rochelle, Georgia to William and Lola Hunt, Elder James Hunt grew up in Detroit, MI where he served three years in the military before being honorably discharged. He attended Goldey Beacom University where he received an Associate's in Business Administration. His business career spanned over 15 years in management, with 12 years at General Electric Credit Corporation, and 3 years at U.S.I. Capital and Leasing Corporation.

Elder Hunt acknowledged God's call to the ministry in 1971 and received his Minister's License in April of 1973. He was ordained an elder in 1974. Bishop O.T. Jones, Jr. contacted him five years later concerning the pastorate at Ebenezer and he was appointed pastor at the 1979 Holy Convocation.

In September 1982, Pastor Hunt attended the 13th Pentecostal World Conference in Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa and in in September of 1983, Bishop O.T. Jones, Jr. asked him to lead a missionary delegation to Liberia and the Ivory Coast West Africa. He was appointed by Bishop O.T. Jones, Jr. to serve on the following jurisdictional committees: Finance Committee, Arrangements Committee, Executive Committee, and chairman of the Ad-hoc Committee for the 75th Diamond Anniversary in 1995. Under the leadership of Bishop Benjamin J. Ravenel, Pastor Hunt was appointed chairman of the Budget Committee, superintendent of the Metropolitan District and a member of the Board of Directors for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Jurisdiction.

The Church of God in Christ, Inc. recognized Pastor Hunt's abilities in finance and administrative efficiency. He therefore served the national church as an internal auditor. He also served on more than 5 national committees of the General Assembly. He was elected Vice Chairman of the General Assembly on April 18, 2001, and elected to a four year term November 11, 2002, November 13, 2006, and November 15, 2010. Pastor Hunt was the longest serving elected vice chairman in the history of our church. He became chairman of the General Assembly on June 25, 2011.

Pastor Hunt is married to Lady Julia A. Hunt. Together, they have four sons, James William Hunt, II, Janard Alexis Hunt, Jonathan Christian Hunt, and Jason Charles Hunt.



SUPERINTENDENT THOMAS J. JACKSON

Chief Justice, Judiciary Board
Pastor, New Original Church of God in Christ
Chicago, IL

Superintendent Thomas Jackson, Jr. was born and raised in Chicago, IL and attended the University of Chicago, DePaul University and Roosevelt University, where he majored in Business Management, Personnel Administration and Sociology. He is a retired account executive with Commonwealth Edison and has been a member of the Church of God in Christ all of his life (third generation). He has been in ministry for over 59 years and pastoring for 50 years.

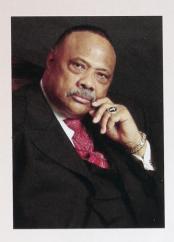
Superintendent Jackson has held numerous offices within the Church of God in Christ. He has served as the national chairman of the Election Board, vice chairman and executive committee member of the General Assembly, former third vice chairman and executive board member of the National General Council of Pastors and Elders, and is presently chairman of the National Judiciary Board. He is also superintendent of the Thomas J. Jackson Memorial District and the administrative assistant to the prelate of First Jurisdiction Illinois. His past experience on the district and state levels are too numerous to mention. He is the author of two publications – "Visions for Change," an afro centric rite of passage program for youth, and a "Church Of God in Christ" leadership guidebook for ministers.

In addition to his impressive career with the Church of God in Christ, Supt. Jackson is very active in community and ecumenical efforts. He is currently the president of the South Shore Ministerial Association (an ecumenical ministerial association for pastors and community leaders), president and founder of the Ministerial Advisory Council (MAC), former secretary of the Concerned Clergy of Chicago, a former board member of the South Shore Cultural Center Advisory Board, former member of Mayor Daley's Blue Ribbon Committee on School Reform in Chicago, and chairman of the Fourth District Police Advisory Committee for 17 years.

Superintendent Jackson has received numerous commendations for his community activism and in 1999, Chicago's East 78th Street (between Jeffery and Stony Island Avenue) was named "Rev. Thomas Jackson, Jr. Street." The mayor of the city of Chicago also proclaimed the day "Rev. Thomas Jackson, Jr. Day."

To add to his amazing career, Supt. Jackson, through New Original Ministries, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization, purchased Faulkner School, a private school serving preschool through eighth grade, which has now been reorganized into a high tech community center.

Superintendent Jackson is known for his kind, yet forceful administration and his willingness to assist those in need. He is indeed a helper of many. He and his wife of 58 years, Sis. Marilyn Jackson, have four children.



BISHOP DESIGNEE DWIGHT E. WALLS, SR.

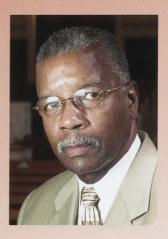
Chairman, National Board of Trustees
Pastor, Greater Shiloh Church of God in Christ
Ypsilanti, MI

Superintendent Dwight E. Walls, Sr. has served on the National Board of Trustees for 24 years, operating in the capacities of 1st and 2nd vice chairman, participating in the negotiating of contracts, developing budgets and job descriptions, hiring staff, assisting in strategic planning, supervision of National Properties and ascertaining the budgetary needs of all national departments for the Church of God in Christ, Inc.

Son of the late Bishop Floyd A. Walls and Mother Alma M. Walls, Superintendent Dwight E. Walls, Sr. grew up in Ypsilanti, MI where he attended the Ypsilanti Public School System, later gaining track scholarships and attending Washtenaw Community College, Bank Street College, as well as the University of Michigan.

Superintendent Walls served under his father at the Greater Shiloh Church of God in Christ as a deacon and assistant pastor. The late Bishop Floyd A. Walls became jurisdictional bishop of the Canada Second Jurisdiction in 1986, where Superintendent Walls served as his episcopal assistant and was instrumental in helping to develop the jurisdiction, under the leadership of his father. After the demise of Bishop Walls, the late Bishop Elton Lawrence, Sr. became the prelate of Canada Second Jurisdiction, later to be renamed the Michigan/Canadian Jurisdiction. On November 13, 2012, Superintendent Walls was elected by the General Assembly for his 7th consecutive term as chairman of the National Board of Trustees. He is humbled to serve as chairman under the leadership of Presiding Bishop Charles Edward Blake, Sr.

The husband of Missionary Mignon N. Walls, Superintendent Walls is a family man. He is the father of Elder Dwight, II, Missionary LarScene, Brother Dion (Donnietra), and grandfather of four. He is the pastor of the Greater Shiloh Church of God in Christ (19 years). He currently serves as the district superintendent of the Greater Shiloh District and administrative assistant in the Greater Lakes 2nd Jurisdiction of Michigan (Bishop Alfred M. Smith, prelate).



BISHOP JOHN HENRY SHEARD

Chairman, Board of Bishops
Pastor, Greater Mitchell Temple Church of God In Christ
Detroit, MI

From his humble beginnings in a rural town in Mississippi to leadership in the Interntional Church of God In Christ, John Henry Sheard is a born leader. His father, Superintendent O.S. Sheard, was a COGIC pioneer and preacher, having pastored the very first Church of God in Christ in Lexington, MS. He later pastored churches in Greenwood and Greenville, Mississippi for more than 30 years, and served as administrative assistant in the Northern Mississippi Jurisdiction.

Bishop John H. Sheard, although destined to follow in his father's footsteps, moved to Detroit, MI at a very early age. He was ordained an elder and placed as pastor of the Mitchell Street COGIC in January of 1982. After displaying great leadership ability, he moved the constantly growing membership to a larger and more comfortable location. His congregation continued to grow and moved again to its present location - Greater Mitchell Temple COGIC in Detroit, MI.

Over the years God continued to elevate Bishop Sheard to district superintendent, jurisdictional president of the Youth Department, and even to the jurisdiction's prestigious Executive Board. He continued to serve, as he had been trained, and at the demise of Bishop W.L. Harris, was consecrated as bishop of the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Michigan Southwest by the General Board of the Church of God In Christ (Bishop L.H. Ford, presiding bishop).

Bishop Sheard has now presided over the Michigan Southwest First Jurisdiction for the past 22 years. During this time, the jurisdiction has made tremendous strides. His notoriety as a man of integrity and great leadership has spread throughout the country. His peers have twice elected him as chairman of the Board of Bishops for the Church of God In Christ, Inc. Bishop Sheard was honored by the Ohio Southern Christian Leadership Conference as "Bishop of the Year for 2009."

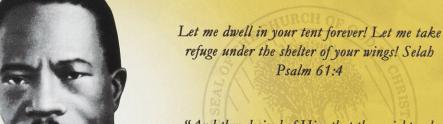
Married 58 years to Mother Willie Mae Sheard, together they have two sons in ministry, Bishop J. Drew Sheard, COGIC General Board member and pastor of the Greater Emmanuel Institutional COGIC in Detroit; and Elder Ethan B. Sheard, associate minister at Greater Mitchell Temple COGIC and President of the Youth Department of Michigan Southwest First.

COMMEMORATIVE PRAYER SHAWL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST



HEBREW PRAYER

Blessed are you O' Lord King of the Universe Who has fulfilled all of the law through Jesus the Messiah and have covered us with his Righteousness.



"And they desired of Him that they might only touch the hem of His garment. And as many as touched it were made perfectly well."

Matthew 14:36

30 Means

Celebrating the Birth of Our Founder Bishop Charles Harrison Mason

1864



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7 GOLD STARS

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Commemorating the Six General Supervisors





on behalf of

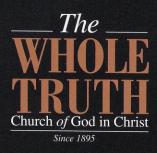
The Whole Truth's managing editor,

Robert Coleman, Jr.,

our editor, April Quillen,

and the entire TWT Team,

we present to you ...







The PASTORS

Alphabetically Listed



1 BISHOP BOBBY ALLEN
Griffin Memorial COGIC
Bishop Bobby Allen, Prelate
Utah Jurisdiction



3 BISHOP EDWIN C. BASS
The Empowered Church COGIC
Bishop Robert J. Ward, Prelate
Missouri Eastern Jurisdiction



2 PASTOR GREGORY ASKEW, SR.

Jubilee COGIC

Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, Sr., Prelate

Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction



4 PASTOR MARK BAYMON
Deliverance Center Ministries COGIC
Bishop Samuel Hogan, Prelate
Massachusetts First Jurisdiction



5 PASTOR JOHNSON BEAVEN

Citadel of Faith COGIC Bishop Donald Alford, Prelate Indiana North Central Jurisdiction



8 PASTOR NATHANIEL BULLOCK

Greater White Rose Bishop Wilbur W. Hamilton, Prelate California Northwest Jurisdiction



6 PASTOR LOUIS BISHOP

Greater All Nations Prayer Tower COGIC
Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr., Prelate
Michigan Southwest Third Jurisdiction



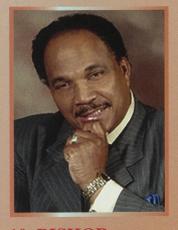
9 PASTOR ERIC L. BUTLER

Joy of Life Ministries COGIC Bishop John O. Ford, Sr., Prelate Nebraska Jurisdiction



7 PASTOR ALBERT WENDELL BROWN, JR.

Refreshing Springs COGIC Bishop Mark H. Blade, Prelate Indiana First Jurisdiction



10 BISHOP WILLIE JAMES CAMPBELL

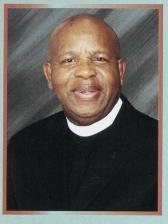
St. James COGIC
Bishop Sedgwick Daniels
Wisconsin First Jurisdiction





11 PASTOR CHAD CARLTON

Temple of Healing Waters COGIC Bishop Samuel L. Green, Prelate Virginia Second Jurisdiction



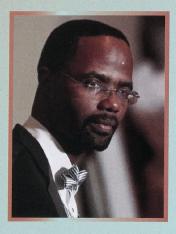
12 PASTOR EDWARD CARTER

Prayer Assembly COGIC Bishop Harvey T. Young, Prelate Arizona Jurisdiction



13 PASTOR CLIFFORD CHAPPELL

St. Johns All Nations Church of God in Christ Bishop Sedgwick Daniels, Prelate Wisconsin First Jurisdiction



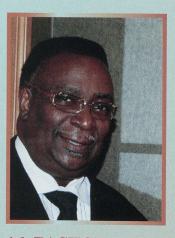
14 PASTOR JOHN CHRISTIAN

Christian Worship Center COGIC Bishop Gary Hall, Sr., Prelate Florida Central First Jurisdiction



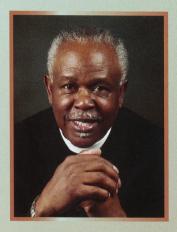
15 PASTOR GILBERT CLAY

Rose Hill COGIC Bishop Hurley Bassett, Sr., Prelate Iowa Jurisdiction

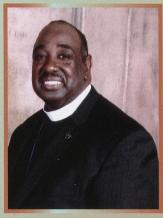


16 PASTOR JOSEPH CONNER

New Beginnings COGIC Bishop Benjamin J. Ravenel, Sr., Prelate Pennsylvania Commonwealth



17 PASTOR ALFRED C. DAVIS Eastside Community Church COGIC Bishop Jerry W. Macklin, Interim Prelate Washington State Jurisdiction



BISHOP-DESIGNEE ALPHONSO DENSON Abram Temple COGIC



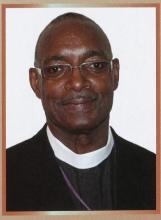
Bishop-Designee Alphonso Denson Louisiana East First Jurisdiction



18 PASTOR HERBERT DAVIS Nehemiah Christian Center COGIC Bishop Stenneth Powell, Prelate North Carolina Second Jurisdiction



21 PASTOR TERRY DIAMOND Abundance of Blessings COGIC Bishop C.L. Bryant, Prelate Texas Southeast Third Jurisdiction



19 PASTOR RONALD DEAL St. Michael COGIC Bishop Paul R. Harmon, Prelate Maryland Eastern Shore Jurisdiction



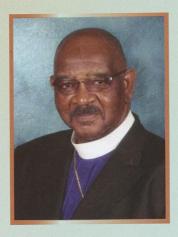
PASTOR LINWOOD DILLARD Citadel of Deliverance C.O.G.I.C. Bishop Brandon B. Porter, Prelate Tennessee Central Jurisdiction





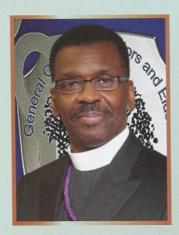
23 BISHOP SAMUEL DUNCAN, JR.

Lansing COGIC
Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr., Prelate
Michigan Southwest Third Jurisdiction



24 BISHOP LUTHER DUPREE

Rehoboth-Holy Temple COGIC Bishop Luther Dupree, Prelate Northern Nevada First Jurisdiction



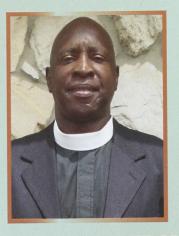
25 PASTOR MICHAEL EADDY

Peoples Church of the Harvest COGIC Bishop Ocie Booker, Prelate Illinois First Jurisdiction



26 PASTOR RON EAGLETON

Mt. Rose COGIC Bishop Rufus Kyles, Jr., Prelate Texas Southeast First Jurisdiction



27 PASTOR LEROY EALY

Bryant Temple COGIC
Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, Prelate
Louisiana First Jurisdiction



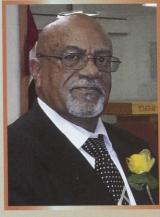
28 PASTOR OTIS EANES

Greater Liberty COGIC Bishop William Scott, Prelate Illinois Southeast Jurisdiction



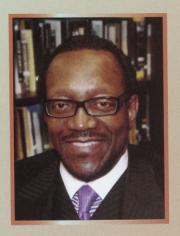
29 PASTOR EZRA FAGGE'TT

Unity Temple COGIC Bishop Fred Washington, Prelate Minnesota Jurisdiction



32 PASTOR GEORGE FORT

Community Chapel Church COGIC Bishop J. Bernard Hackworth, Prelate California Southern Metropolitan



30 PASTOR J. LOUIS FELTON

Mount Airy COGIC Bishop Ernest C. Morris, Sr., Prelate Pennsylvania Koinonia Jurisdiction



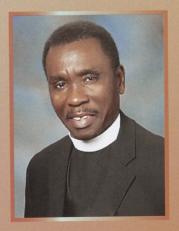
33 BISHOP PAUL FORTSON

Paradise COGIC Bishop Paul Fortson, Prelate Barbados/Caribbean Jurisdiction



31 PASTOR KEITH FORD

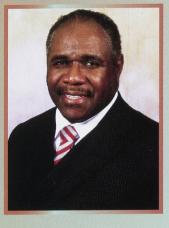
The Messias COGIC Bishop James Lee, Prelate Texas East Jurisdiction



34 PASTOR SIDNEY FRYE

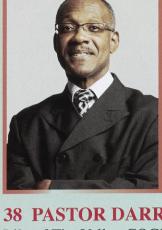
Word of Life COGIC Bishop Fred Washington, Prelate Minnesota Jurisdiction





35 PASTOR NELSON GATLIN

Mitchell Chapel COGIC Bishop T.W. Johnson, Prelate Texas Northeast Third Jurisdiction



38 PASTOR DARRELL GRISSUM

Lily of The Valley COGIC Bishop Felton King, Prelate Arizona Jurisdiction



36 BISHOP GERALD GLENN

New Deliverance Evangelistic Church Bishop Stenneth Powell, Sr., Prelate North Carolina Second Jurisdiction



39 BISHOP HARRISON HALE

Cornerstone COGIC Bishop Harrison Hale, Prelate Guatemala Jurisdiction



37 PASTOR DARRYL GRANT

Kingdom Builders Church COGIC Bishop Stenneth Powell, Sr., Prelate North Carolina Second Jurisdiction



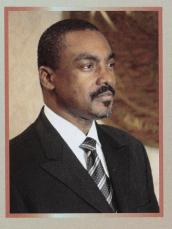
40 PASTOR KEVIN HAMMOND

New Covenant Fellowship COGIC Bishop-Designee Hillmon Moses New Jersey South Jersey Jurisdiction



41 PASTOR TERRELL HARRIS

True Light COGIC Bishop Oscar Meadows, Prelate Alabama First Jurisdiction



42 BISHOP-DESIGNEE MILTON HAWKINS

Temple of Deliverance Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, Prelate Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction



43 PASTOR TERENCE HAYES, SR.

Faith Deliverance COGIC Bishop Clifford L. Kimbrough, Prelate Ohio Northwest Jurisdiction



44 PASTOR RODERICK HENNINGS

Zion Dominion Global Ministries COGIC Bishop James R. Wright, Prelate New York Western First Jurisdiction



45 PASTOR HERMAN HICKS

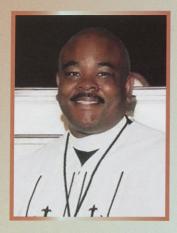
Greater Pentecostal COGIC Bishop J.C. Gilkey, Sr., Prelate Kansas Southwest Jurisdiction



46 PASTOR BRUCE HOGAN

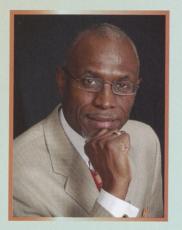
Brookside Ministries COGIC Bishop Henderson Wheeler, Prelate West Virginia Greater Jurisdiction





47 PASTOR LUTHER HOLMES

Ecclesia COGIC
Bishop Johnny J. Johnson, Prelate
South Carolina Jurisdiction



48 PASTOR ANDREW JACKSON

West Irving COGIC Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, Prelate Texas Northeast Jurisdiction



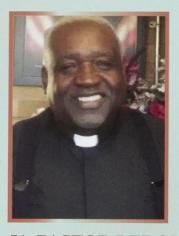
49 PASTOR ANDREW L. JENKINS, SR.

Saints Liberty Life Step Ministries COGIC
Bishop Phillip A. Brooks, Prelate
Michigan Northeast Jurisdiction



50 PASTOR CRAIG JOHNSON

Joyful Fellowship COGIC Bishop Timothy T. Scott, Prelate Mississippi Northern Jurisdiction



51 PASTOR LEROY JONES

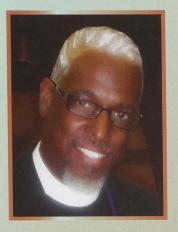
New Life Pentecostal COGIC Bishop Darrell L. Hines, Prelate Illinois Midwest Jurisdiction



52 PASTOR DWAYNE JORDAN

The Master's Touch Cathedral International Church COGIC

Bishop James L'Keith Jones, Prelate New Mexico Jurisdiction



53 PASTOR ROSS JOHNSON

Bethel & Mt. Zion COGIC Bishop Edward T. Cook, Prelate Ohio North First Jurisdiction



56 PASTOR CLARENCE LEWIS, III

First Calvary COGIC Bishop Benjamin Ravenel, Sr., Prelate Pennsylvania Commonwealth Jurisdiction



54 PASTOR GREGORY E. JORDAN

Calvary COGIC Bishop Edward T. Cook, Prelate Ohio North First Jurisdiction



57 PASTOR JEROME H. LEWIS

Way of Life COGIC Bishop Frank O. White, Prelate New York Eastern Third Jurisdiction



55 PASTOR JAMES LAWSON

Terrestrial Temple COGIC Bishop Donald Alford, Prelate Indiana North Central Jurisdiction



58 BISHOP D.L. LINDSEY

The Worship Center COGIC Bishop Frank J. Anderson, Prelate Arkansas Second Jurisdiction





59 PASTOR KENNEDY LOCKHART

The Church COGIC Bishop Edward T. Cook, Prelate Ohio North First Jurisdiction



60 PASTOR ROBERT LOWE

New Beginnings COGIC Bishop Glenwood H. Young, Sr., Prelate New York Western Second Jurisdiction



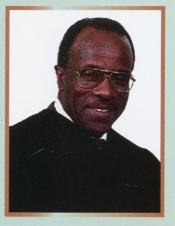
61 PASTOR JOHN MAGWATI

Gospel COGIC Bishop Vincent Mathews, Prelate South Africa Jurisdiction



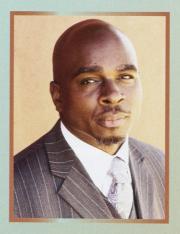
62 PASTOR ADRIAN MALONE

Higher Dimensions COGIC Bishop J.C. Williams, Prelate Wisconsin Third Jurisdiction



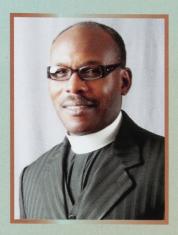
63 PASTOR JAMES MARKS

Bethesda COGIC Bishop James E. Washington, Prelate Illinois Fifth West Jurisdiction



64 BISHOP VINCENT MATHEWS

Tabernacle COGIC
Bishop Vincent Mathews, Prelate
South Africa Jurisdiction



65 BISHOP-DESIGNEE ALBERT MAYS

Word of Life Ministries COGIC
Bishop Juan Lawson, Prelate
Texas Western Jurisdiction



68 PASTOR LARRY MILES

Fresh Anointing Cathedral COGIC Bishop Samuel L. Green, Prelate Virginia Second Jurisdiction



66 BISHOP CHARLES MCCLELLAND

Holy Cathedral COGIC Bishop Charles McClelland, Prelate Wisconsin Northwest Jurisdiction



69 PASTOR ARTHUR MOSLEY

Cathedral of Faith COGIC Bishop Joseph E. Hogan, Prelate Georgia North Central Jurisdiction



67 PASTOR DENNIS J. MCMURRAY

Renaissance COGIC Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells, Jr., Prelate Michigan Western Jurisdiction



70 BISHOP JOSEPH NORFLEET

Faith Center COGIC Bishop Joseph Norfleet, Prelate India Fourth Jurisdiction





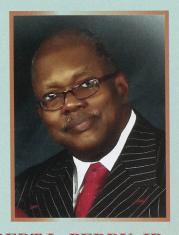
71 PASTOR WILLARD PAYTON

New Birth COGIC Bishop Ocie Booker, Prelate Illinois First Jurisdiction



72 PASTOR FREDERICK PELLUM

Refreshing COGIC Bishop John Wayne Leggett, Prelate Georgia Southern Second Jurisdiction



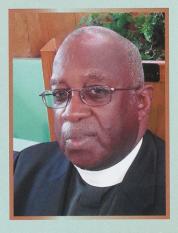
73 PASTOR ROBERT L. PERRY, JR.

Grove Street COGIC Bishop James E. Washington, Prelate Illinois Fifth West Jurisdiction



74 PASTOR CARL PIERCE

Carter Memorial Church COGIC Bishop J. Harley Lyles, Prelate Maryland Greater First Jurisdiction



75 PASTOR TIMOTHY L. PORTER, SR.

Emmanuel Temple COGIC Bishop Martin Luther Johnson, Prelate New Jersey First Jurisdiction



76 PASTOR HENRY PRIOR

Redeem Bethel COGIC Community Fellowship Center Bishop James R. Wright, Sr., Prelate New York Western First Jurisdiction



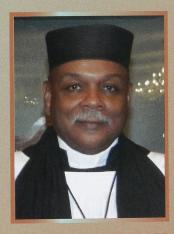
77 PASTOR EDDIE PRUITTE

Holiness Tabernacle COGIC Bishop Ted Thomas, Prelate Virginia First Jurisdiction



78 PASTOR CHRISTOPHER V. PRYOR

Victorious Believers Ministries COGIC Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr., Prelate Michigan Southwest Third Jurisdiction



79 PASTOR MOSES RAY

Gordon COGIC Bishop John Wayne Leggett, Prelate Georgia Southern Second Jurisdiction

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80 PASTOR KENNETH REED

Greater Evangelical Church of God in Christ Bishop Ronald J. Hoston, Prelate New York Central Jurisdiction



81 PASTOR ROBERT ROBINSON, JR.

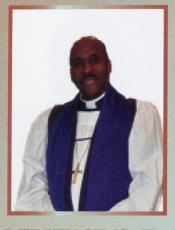
Second Faith Temple C.O.G.I.C. Bishop Embra Patterson, Jr., Prelate Illinois Southern Jurisdiction



82 BISHOP-DESIGNEE AHMED SCREVEN

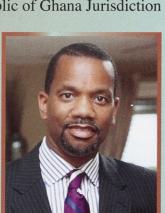
Bethesda COGIC Bishop John P. Lee, Sr., Prelate New York Eastern Fourth Jurisdiction





83 BISHOP ERVIN SIMS, JR.
Mt. Carmel COGIC

Bishop Ervin Sims, Jr., Prelate Republic of Ghana Jurisdiction



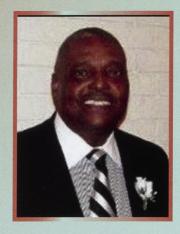
84 PASTOR JOHN SMITH

Rosemark COGIC Bishop Brandon B. Porter, Prelate Tennessee Central Jurisdiction



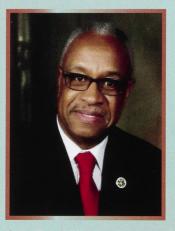
85 PASTOR LEE STERN

Community Outreach COGIC Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, Prelate Texas Northeast Jurisdiction



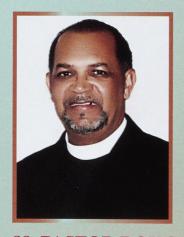
86 PASTOR CHARLES STEVENSON, SR.

Bethel Church of God in Christ Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush, Prelate Louisiana First Jurisdiction



87 PASTOR JAMES STRONG

Fountain of Life Ministries Bishop Oscar Meadows, Prelate Alabama First Jurisdiction



88 PASTOR ROY SUDDS

Light of Life Miracle Deliverance COGIC Bishop Roosevelt Dunn, Prelate Colorado Jurisdiction



89 PASTOR JOHNNY TATES

Powerhouse COGIC Bishop Rufus Kyles, Jr., Prelate Texas Southeast First Jurisdiction



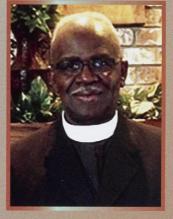
92 PASTOR KEITH E. THORNTON, SR.

Thompson Temple Church of God in Christ Bishop Gerald H. Hawkins, Prelate Louisiana East Second Jurisdiction



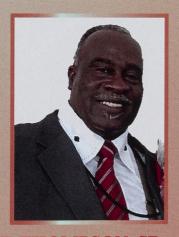
90 PASTOR ARCHIE THOMAS

Living Word Cathedral COGIC Bishop Jewel R. Withers, Prelate Arkansas First Jurisdiction



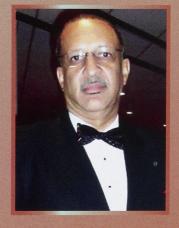
93 PASTOR HENRY WALKER

Greater New Jerusalem COGIC Bishop Timothy T. Scott, Prelate Mississippi Northern Jurisdiction



91 PASTOR PAUL THOMPSON, SR.

Pentecostal Temple COGIC Bishop Samuel E. Iglehart, Prelate Texas Southwest Jurisdiction



94 PASTOR CELESTER WEBB

United COGIC Bishop Fred Washington, Prelate Minnesota Jurisdiction





95 BISHOP JOHNIE WILLIAMS

Williams Temple Bishop Johnie Williams, Prelate Wisconsin Third Jurisdiction



96 PASTOR WALTER C. WILLIE

Prayer Tabernacle COGIC Bishop Frank O. White, Prelate New York Eastern Third Jurisdiction



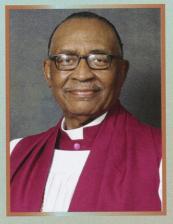
97 PASTOR EDWARD WOLFE

New Hope COGIC Bishop Martin Luther Johnson, Prelate New Jersey First Jurisdiction



98 PASTOR PATRICK WOODEN, SR.

Upper Room Church COGIC Bishop Leroy J. Woolard, Prelate North Carolina Greater Jurisdiction



99 BISHOP EARL J. WRIGHT, SR.

Greater Miller Memorial COGIC Bishop Earl J. Wright, Sr., Prelate Michigan Southwest Second Jurisdiction

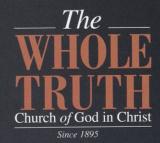


100 PASTOR JOHN YOUNG, III

Bible Way COGIC
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Georgia South Central Jurisdiction



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New Gospel Temple COGIC Bishop James H. Gaylord, Prelate New York Eastern First Jurisdiction



4 PASTOR ROBERT DEAN

New Life COGIC Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr., Prelate Michigan Southwest Third Jurisdiction



5 PASTOR JERRY GIVENS

Prayer Garden COGIC
Bishop J. Drew Sheard, Prelate
Michigan North Central Jurisdiction

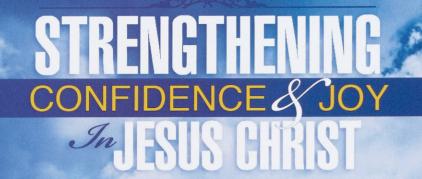


6 PASTOR KEITH KERSHAW

Genesis COGIC Bishop Johnny J. Johnson, Prelate South Carolina Jurisdiction



Bishop Samuel Duncan, Jr., Prelate Michigan Southwest Third Jurisdiction



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SUNDAYS MORNING INTERCESSARY PRAYER - 9:30AM

UNDAY SCHOOL 10:00AM

MORNING WORSHII 11:15AM

EVENING WORSHIP 6:30PM

WEEKDAY SERVICES

TUESDAY

INTERCESSARY PRAYER - 12:00PM

WONDERFUL WEDNESDAY NIGHTS 7:00P

ELDER FIRST LADY **CRAIG JOHNSON**

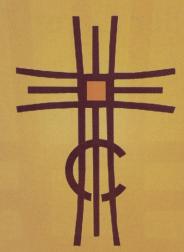
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HOUR OF POWER - 9:00AM MORNING WORSHIP - 11:30AM

WEDNESDAY

BIBLE STUDY - 7:00PM

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Superintendent E. Kevin Hammond Sr.

South Jersey Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Bishop Hillmon Moses - Prelate

Mother Deborah Kitchen - Supervisor of Women

Superintendent Hammond serves as Pastor of New Covenant Temple, in Drexel Hill Pa.

He was ordained under the late Bishop O. T. Jones Jr. and has served on the Local, Jurisdictional and Regional level within the Church of God In Christ for over 27 years. He is the Founder & CEO of NCF Fellowship.



Current Positions Held

District Superintendent - Suburban District

Financial Secretary

of

South Jersey Jurisdiction

Past Positions Held

Adjutant
Treasurer
Applicant Review Board Member
of
Commonwealth of Pa Jurisdiction

Jurisdictional Vice President - Commonwealth of Pa. Youth Department Executive Staff - East Region Youth Department

Married 30 years to Pastor Lynette Hammond Father of Evangelist Danielle & Minister E. Kevin Hammond II



Bishop Designate

Word Life District Missionary

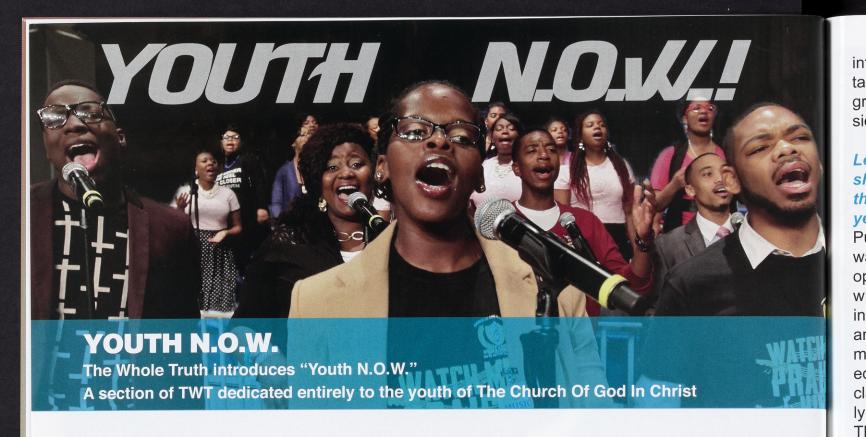
Albort | Mayer In Property | District Missionary

Evant Willia M. Mayer

Bishop Designate Albert J. Mays, Jr. Founder/Pastor District Missionary Evang. Willie M. Mays *First Lady*

I wish to thank the Church of God in Christ,
The Whole Truth Magazine and the
Church Of God In Christ Publishing House
for recognizing me as one of
COGIC's 100 Influential Pastors.

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Have You Considered Being an Intern?

By Daniele Randolph



"Go to college, get a good education, and you can become whatever it is you want." While this statement may be true, what happens when you're unsure of what you want to spend the rest of your life doing?

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True story...

A young lady was strongly encouraged to go to college. As a child, she always spoke her dream of becoming a child psychologist. The young lady was certain that she would fulfill that dream. During the young lady's senior year of high school, she was encouraged by an educational mentor that majoring in the life sciences would be the best path to take. Taking the advice given, the young lady enrolled into a higher learning institution as biology major. The young lady enjoyed the classes but lacked a passion for what she was learning. In her last semester of college, the young lady took a psychology class and instantly realized that this is where she should have been all along. What could have helped this young lady come to this realization earlier in her educational career? An internship!

An internship is "on the job" experience. Through an internship, a college student is privileged to work alongside professionals in their field of interest. The internship gives the student insight into the opportunities that lie ahead if they maintain their field of study. An internship is also a great way for a college student to build a professional networking system.

Let's further explore the benefits of an internship. In this next true story, we will highlight the plight of a young man in his sophomore year in college.

Pursuing a degree in business, a young man

was presented with an opportunity to intern with a well-known mining company. Day in and day out, the young man applied the knowledge gained in the classroom and faithfully showed up to work. The young man arrived to work early, stayed late if required, and asked the right questions. By the end of the young man's internship, the company had offered him a full-time position. The offer from the organization set the young man up for the rest of his professional career. He accepted the position and went on to receive various promotions, which led to top-seated positions in the company.

An internship is a tool used at the collegiate level to equip students with the knowledge base and experience needed to excel in the professional arena.

When should one apply for an internship?

ships in your field of study.

human resources department. Connecting with

an academic advisor, professor, or educational

mentor are also great ways to learn about intern-

The earlier one applies for an internship the better. This will allow one the possibility to work with multiple organizations and gain a wealth of knowledge, prior to obtaining their degree.

How do I apply for an internship?

Most internships require an application and/or letter(s) of recommendation, in addition to an essay.

An internship is a tool used at the collegiate level to equip students with the knowledge base and experience needed to excel in the professional arena. Whether or not the degree of study requires an internship, if the opportunity to participate in an internship program arises, take it! I encourage those striving to better themselves academically to exhaust all possibilities. Work hard, stay persistent and stay relevant. Apply to multiple

internships and follow-up a million times if need be. Be noticed, stand out and set yourself up for great academic and professional success.

Now, how does one obtain an internship?

Depending on the level of study, one could apply for an internship as early as their sophomore year. With today's level of technology, the internet is a great way to seek out an internship. Browse the website of companies and/or organizations with which you may be interested in interning. The organization may already have an established intern program to which one may apply. If the information is not readily available on the organization's website, reach out to the

Daniele Randolph is a member of Relevant Word Christian Church (Phoenix, AZ) and the Arizona Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

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Praise & Worship Leader

By Marion McNair

West Angeles Church of God in Christ Praise and Worship Director, David Daughtry, leaps into another dimension of faith by signing with gospel legend Karen Clark Sheard's Karew Records. Daughtry is a prime example of the Scripture, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord."

How do you usher the people into the presence of God? "Very prayerfully," says Praise & Worship Leader David Daughtry.

Recently, The Whole Truth Magazine caught up with David for an in depth interview.

TWT: Congratulations on your recording contract with Karew Records. How excited are you about being a part of her label and how did this come about?

DAUGHTRY: I'm very excited! It's been a long journey. Years ago, Karen and I had a brief conversation about it, but her label was not up and running then. In the meantime, I was working on my project and was going to put it out

independently, as most new artists do. Bishop Sheard saw me leading Praise & Worship at the national convocation. He heard about my project through a mutual friend. He said he was interested in me signing with the label. That's how it came about.

TWT: How did you get started in music?

DAUGHTRY: My mom, Evangelist Joann Daughtry, is a singer and a preacher. She plays the organ and guitar. So around the age of six, she taught my sister and me how to sing and play the piano. She is a missionary in every way. She is the one who instilled the love of God in me. She taught me the Bible. A lot of the old songs that I do are from my mom, like, "I get joy when I think about." I would see my mom in

TWT: The name of your CD is David Daughtry. Who is David Daughtry?

DAUGHTRY: David Daughtry is someone who loves God and wants to fulfill every assignment He has attached to my hands. I love to praise. I love to worship. I love God. That's who I am.

TWT: What is the message you wish the public to take away from your songs?

DAUGHTRY: There are so many things weighting us down. I wanted my CD to be happy. I didn't want it to be talking about I'm down in the dumps, or climbing up the rough side of the mountain. That's not the message I wanted to portray. I'm not putting anybody else down, but I want mine to be happy. One of the songs on the CD is, "You Kept Me." It's very urban and can be played on gospel and secular stations. I wanted songs

that everyone could listen to, so I've got traditional, contemporary, and a little quartet. I want to lift people on their way to work, as well as reach people who are not churched and are unsaved.

TWT: Is there a song on the CD that is your personal testimony?

DAUGHTRY: There's a song on the CD that says, "You are My Dwelling Place. You are all that I need. Everything that I need, You are to me." That is my personal testimony.



church singing those songs.

David Daughtry...

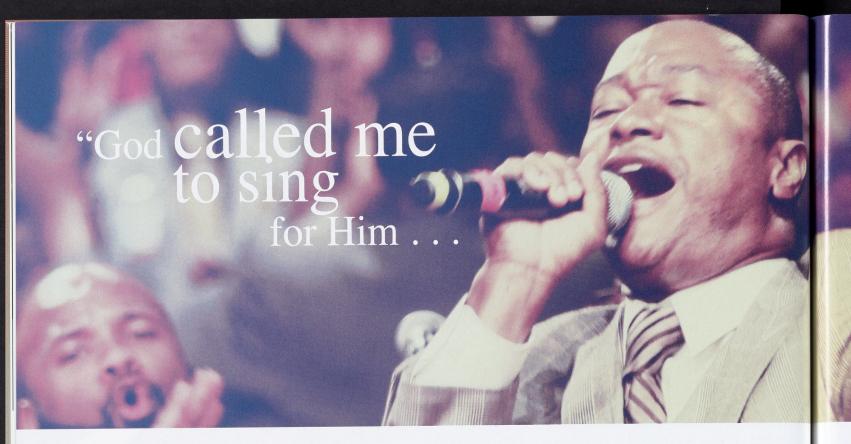
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THEWHOLFTRUTH



It says, "You are my dwelling place. You are my saving grace. You are all that I need. Everything, You are to me."

TWT: When will the CD come out?

DAUGHTRY: I've already finished the CD because I was working on it independently. So hopefully, it will be available in about three to four months. The single will be out sooner. It's titled, "God is great – LEAP!"

TWT: How did you become the praise & worship leader at West Angeles?

DAUGHTRY: I was sitting in choir rehearsal and one of Dr. McAllister's lead singers did not show up. She called me down and said, "David, I want you to lead this song." It was "Praise Waiteth for Thee" by Richard Smallwood. I didn't know the song but I said, "Okay, I'll do my best." When we sang it in rehearsal, the Spirit of God came into the room. After rehearsal, Dr. McAllister said, "I want you to start leading worship." I told her no; I didn't want to do that. But she told me she saw the call of God on me to do worship. She said, "Did you just see what happened in rehearsal?" I was reluctant because I was used to just singing solos. That's why we have to wait on God to order our steps because I did not want to be a praise and worship leader. I was not interested because it was unfamiliar and I wanted to keep singing solos. Also, it's different when you lead worship; you have to communicate with the people. You have to lead them into the presence of God and that was unfamiliar. Singing solos was familiar, but to lead people into worship, you have to go deeper. Looking back, I believe God gives things to people who don't want it so He can get all the credit and glory.

TWT: How did "Leap" come about?

DAUGHTRY: "Leap" came from a Sunday night service. The ten minute sermonette preacher started singing, "Jesus, I'll never forget." When I got up to lead praise & worship I just kept it going, but I didn't want to leave it there. I needed something else to go into, so I sang, "I don't know what you came to do." Michael Bereal, on the keyboard, caught it right away. He and I communicate like that. Michael came up with the music. Then I got to the part where I sang, "I come to leap for joy." The background singers sang, "For joy." Then we had the interlude part and we weren't doing anything, so we started singing "leap." It came just like that. The medley was actually written in service. I think that was nothing but the Holy Ghost.

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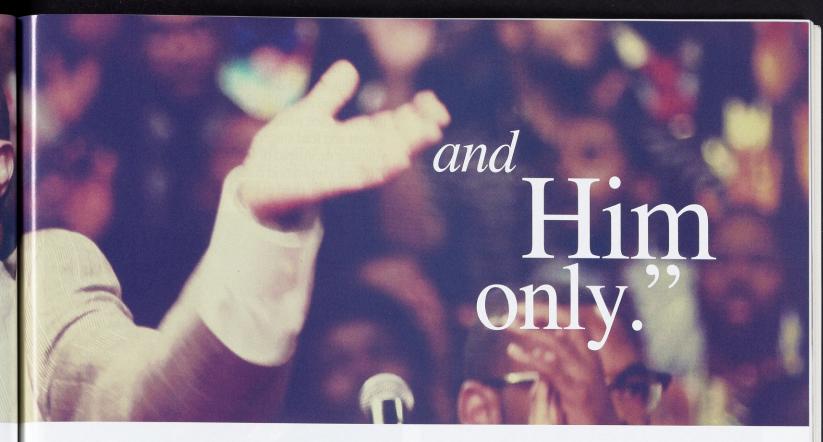
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TWT: The Bible states, "The steps of a good person are ordered by the Lord." Is there a significant time or event where you knew for certain that God was orchestrating your life?

DAUGHTRY: I thought I would have had a project out by now, but we have to wait on God and wait on His timing; He knows best. We may think it's time, but He knows when it's really good. I believe my steps were ordered into this project and into this relationship with Karew Records. Being signed by the Karew label makes things easier distribution and things like that. So God's timing is always the best timing. And He brings everything in order to carry His vision on.

TWT: You have appeared on several nationally recognized televised shows, such as *The BET Awards*, *X-Factor* and *The Grammy Awards*. I'm sure many opportunities must have come your way to take your talent and



skills to other venues, but you chose gospel music. Was that a difficult decision?

DAUGHTRY: It was difficult. A lot of people probably don't know this about me, but I use to sing secular music. I had a recording contract with Sony. I was in an R&B

group called Volume 3 and we were signed by Randy Jackson at that time. Randy became an American Idol judge, so it didn't work out. But it wasn't supposed to. I started to feel uncomfortable with certain lyrics and things like that. But God let me know that He had called me to sing gospel music. He called me to sing of the good news. That is my calling. I can't sit in judgment and say what anyone else's calling is, but I know mine. God called me to sing for Him, and Him only.

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TWT: Can you tell us how you came to be a part of COGIC?

DAUGHTRY: I was not raised COG-IC. I was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. My father was not a Christian and still remains in Milwaukee. My mother, with my sister and me, moved

to California later. I didn't know anything about COGIC until I came to West Angeles. I used to play the piano at another church. I would leave that service and come to West Angeles' 11:30 am service, just to sit back and hear the Word. I also used to sing in the Los Angeles Mass Choir; I had several lead songs. In fact, Jason White used to play for LA Mass and the last song we did was called

"Back to the Drawing Board." I lead that song. The Los Angeles Mass Choir is where I met a lot of West Angeles members - Nikki Potts, Stephanie Lewis, Tony Wilkins and a few others.

> TWT: You have been a back-up singer for many celebrated singers. Now that you're in the forefront as a gospel recording artist, are you prepared for the scrutiny that will be placed on you?

DAUGHTRY: I've already had scrutiny; not at West Angeles, but in 2005 when I first lead praise and worship at the national convocation, I had cornrows in my hair. That was very controversial for some people. There are some clips on *YouTube* where people were having a fit about it. I knew a hairstyle didn't make you saved, so it didn't bother me.

TWT: What is a day like in the life of David Daughtry?

DAUGHTRY: I like to do my devotion in the morning. I like to consult God about everything. That's what the Scripture means to me when it says, "In

all your ways acknowledge Him. And He will direct your path," realizing that we need direction. I teach voice lessons during the day. I'm also a session singer. I do a lot of studio session work for different projects. I'm the director of praise & worship at West Angeles, so I oversee praise and worship for all of our services, including Bible study, as well as Extension and the Praise and Worship Team.



TWT: Bishop Blake says, "I see you in the future and you look much better than you do right now." Look into your future and tell us what you see for yourself in your professional career, as well as ministry.

by God to do His will. I believe there is a lot that God wants to do in our services. His coming is soon and it's time for us to experience Him in a deeper way, a more intimate way, to prepare us for the things that are coming. I'm concerned about our young people. I'm concerned about their church attendance. We cannot forsake the assembling of ourselves together. It's good to watch stuff on the web, but you don't get the same thing as being in the service. We need our young people back in church. So we need to be innovative and creative with everything we do musically, and things like that, so we can draw them in. I believe God is going to use me to reach them.

TWT: Do you write your own songs?

DAUGHTRY: I do write some songs. I didn't do a whole lot of writing on this CD, but I will be digging more into that. I wrote some of the medley, like "Leap."

TWT: From where does your inspiration come?

DAUGHTRY: I have several role models: My mom was a big influence, of course Bishop Blake, and other singers that I respect and listen to. Also, I am a big fan of the Clark Sisters. So for me to be on the Karew label is like, WOW, what an honor. Definitely, Dr. Judith McAllister is a role model. If she hadn't started me leading praise and worship, I wouldn't have any praise and worship songs on this CD.

TWT: Do you give back to your community?

DAUGHTRY: I go to the Los Angeles Mission every 4th Saturday with my mom. We go and sing to the homeless. We do an entire service for them. In addition to that, my mom does a gospel crusade outreach every year in August at Venice Beach. We have several preachers and choirs to come and minister. Dr. Judith McAllister comes and sings. We give away clothes and food. People from all walks of life are there and they come and listen. Some have never heard gospel music before.

TWT: How do you get mentally, spiritually, and physically prepared to lead the people into praise and worship?

DAUGHTRY: First of all, you have to be spiritually prepared, which means you have to talk and consult with God. I believe the Scripture, "Acknowledge God in all your ways and He will direct thy path" is very important and applicable to all areas of our lives. So I ask God what I am supposed to sing; I ask Him to lead me. What do the people need to hear? In our flesh we don't know. We think we do, but we don't. Sometimes God will have a specific song, for that specific time, to meet specific needs of the

people. Mentally, I rehearse with myself so that I am at the top of my craft. I don't like to be unprepared. I go through formats and everything in my head. I sit down and type out lyrics, see what works, see what should be added. As a soloist and lead singer, you always need to know what key you sing in, instead of letting people pick the key for you. Physical preparation is important. We have to be mindful of what we eat and exercise. I go to the gym a lot. I am a



very energetic person. Rest, sleep and water are important. No eating late at night, staying away from certain foods. No fried chicken late at night.

TWT: Will you continue on as the West Angeles Director of Praise and Worship, or are you moving on as a full-time gospel recording artist?

DAUGHTRY: I'm not going anywhere. A lot of gospel artists need to know you always need to be connected to your home church, where you get the Word. You always need a covering. So I will be right here.

TWT: Do you have a mission statement?

DAUGHTRY: I want to sing so that souls will be saved and the Body of Christ will be ministered to. I believe that should be our goal; to get souls saved and to minister to the Body of Christ.

TWT: Share a word of encouragement with those who are still waiting on their gifts to make room for them.

DAUGHTRY: I really don't know anybody who has waited as long as I have. I have been working on this project for years, but I've been faithful. The Scripture says, "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles. They shall run and not be weary. They shall walk and not faint." We don't sing for a record deal. We sing because we love God and want to do what He has called us to do, but a record deal is

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Marie Ange Stud not our ultimate goal. And just because you have a record deal doesn't mean you are doing ministry. So be faithful and wait on God. His timing is the best.

TWT: What do you do for fun?

DAUGHTRY: I love old school arcade games. I can play Pac Man for 45 minutes on one quarter...that's how good I am (laughs). I love the beach. I pray a lot at the beach. I love the water.

TWT: Do you speak at churches and conferences and how does someone contact you for a booking?

DAUGHTRY: I do speak. People want to know about praise and worship. I teach classes on praise and worship at the A.I.M. Convention. I am also the assistant coordinator for the national praise and worship team, Send Judah First. I can be reached at dcdaughtry@gmail.com

TWT: Is there anything you want the public to know about you, your music, or ministry that we have not covered?

DAUGHTRY: I love God. I love to praise God and I love people. I enjoy what I do. I enjoy singing for God and I wouldn't trade that for anything. The feeling that you get when the Spirit is on you when you're singing is like the happiest moment of your life. It hits me in different ways, but I can tell when the anointing is on me. A lot of times I get real emotional, like I want to cry. I can't be still.

TWT: Do you have a favorite Scripture?

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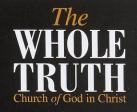
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DAUGHTRY: I have several. Romans 8: 28, "And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." John 14:1, "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me." Another favorite Scripture is a song we sing that Bishop Blake loves. Psalms 3:3, "But thou, O LORD, art a shield for me; my glory, and the lifter up of mine head."



Marion McNair is an Evangelist-Missionary at West Angeles COGIC (Los Angeles, CA), where she sings in the Mass Choir. She also teaches Biblical Studies at the Lynwood Women's Correctional Detention Facilities.

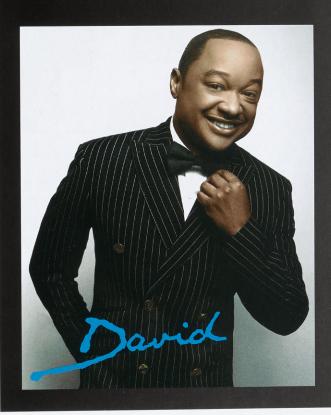


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AN APPETITE for RIGHT BOUS NESS

By Queen E. Phillips

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

Seafood is my favorite - catfish and shrimp. I enjoy my catfish blackened, grilled or batter-fried. My shrimp are delectable if grilled, stuffed or fried, not to mention shrimp scampi. Of course, I must have an option of sides: dirty rice, potato salad, coleslaw, and the fixings, i.e. green tomatoes, tartar sauce, red sauce and hush puppies. Mhmmm. I even have a certain seafood restaurant I prefer dining at; they serve giant platters. Just thinking about it triggers my appetite for a mouthwatering seafood platter.

Although seafood is my favorite dish, it is not very filling; it only provides short-term satisfaction. It does not sustain me because in a couple of hours, I'm hungry again. Also, it would be unwise to eat it every day. If I satisfy my appetite for seafood by eating it daily, I deprive my body of a well-balanced diet and the proper nourishment needed to sustain me. Therefore, rather than appearing my cravings for seafood, I must develop an appetite for a variety of nutritious foods to include in my daily diet in order to be healthy and to satisfy my hunger.

The same is true spiritually. In order to develop an appetite for righteousness, there must be a change in our thinking and perception. In an email lesson on February 4, 2014, Alice Smith, an intercessor and teacher on prayer, shared the difference between hunger and appetite from her book, "Power Prayer":

"Hunger is created when a craving or urgent need for food is stimulated by nerves and hormones connected to the stomach. Appetite, however, is triggered by the very sight of food regardless if hunger is present. Appetite dominates the body, whereas hunger sustains the body. So appetite is mental, hunger is physical. Because appetite is a product of the mind, it can be swayed by factors that influence the mind, such as your favorite Italian restaurant or someone discussing a new pie recipe."

In essence, acquiring an appetite for righteousness is a mindset. Acquiring an appetite for righteousness means not conforming to the world, but being transformed by the renewing of the mind. Since appetite dominates the body because it is a product of the mind, we must avoid focusing on the unhealthy and ungodly things that will negatively influence our thoughts. We cannot risk dipping and dabbling into things that can easily become weights and sins that sway us, lead us astray and dominate our behaviors. There are three things to remember concerning an appetite for righteousness.

- 1. Our spiritual appetite should consist of spiritual things that will sustain and satisfy us completely. Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled (Matthew 5:6). If you crave uprightness and to be in right standing with God, you will experience complete satisfaction while enjoying His unmerited favor (grace).
- 2. Spiritual satisfaction comes by feeding your spirit and mind with the Word of God, intentionally spending time in prayer and meditation, worship, and sharing expressions of love in word and deed by serving others.
- 3. An unhealthy diet in the natural causes a higher risk for sickness and disease, as does an unhealthy spiritual diet. You risk becoming spiritually malnourished weak, sickly and unable to handle life's challenges. Moreover, without an appetite for righteousness, your risks are dangerously higher, considering the eternal effects. Choosing to enjoy only spiritual snacks, rather than a healthy spiritual diet, will give you a temporary satisfaction, a false sense of prosperity and no peace.

Unfortunately, in today's culture, many Christians' appetites are for the things of the world that only give temporary satisfaction to the sinful nature. Consequently, the worldly things are causing extreme discomforts and depression because their god is their appetite (Philippians 3:19). In essence, their appetite for unrighteousness dominates their life.

As Christians, how do we acquire an appetite for uprightness, justice, and right standing with God? First of all, we must remember that our faith in Jesus Christ is the basis for our right standing with God (Ref. 2 Corinthians 5:21). Secondly, according to Philippians 2:13, it is God working in us giving us the desire and the power to do what pleases Him. Even knowing these truths, we must earnestly ask God to give

us an appetite (craving, hunger and thirst) for His righteousness. Naturally, we must change our daily diet and eating habits. Discipline (self-control) is essential for developing healthy eating habits. Eat a daily serving of the meat of the Word. Dine in His Presence and let the pure water of the Word cleanse. I am convinced that if we delight in and crave spiritual food, we will be blessed, fortunate, happy and spiritually prosperous. And we will, most certainly, be fully satisfied (Ref. Matthew 5:6 New Living Translation).

Queen E. Phillips is a published author, Sunday School teacher, altar ministry coordinator and trainer at Mt. Rose COGIC, City of Refuge, Crosby, TX, Dr. Ron Eagleton, pastor; Texas Southeast First Jurisdiction, Bishop Rufus Kyles, Jr., prelate.

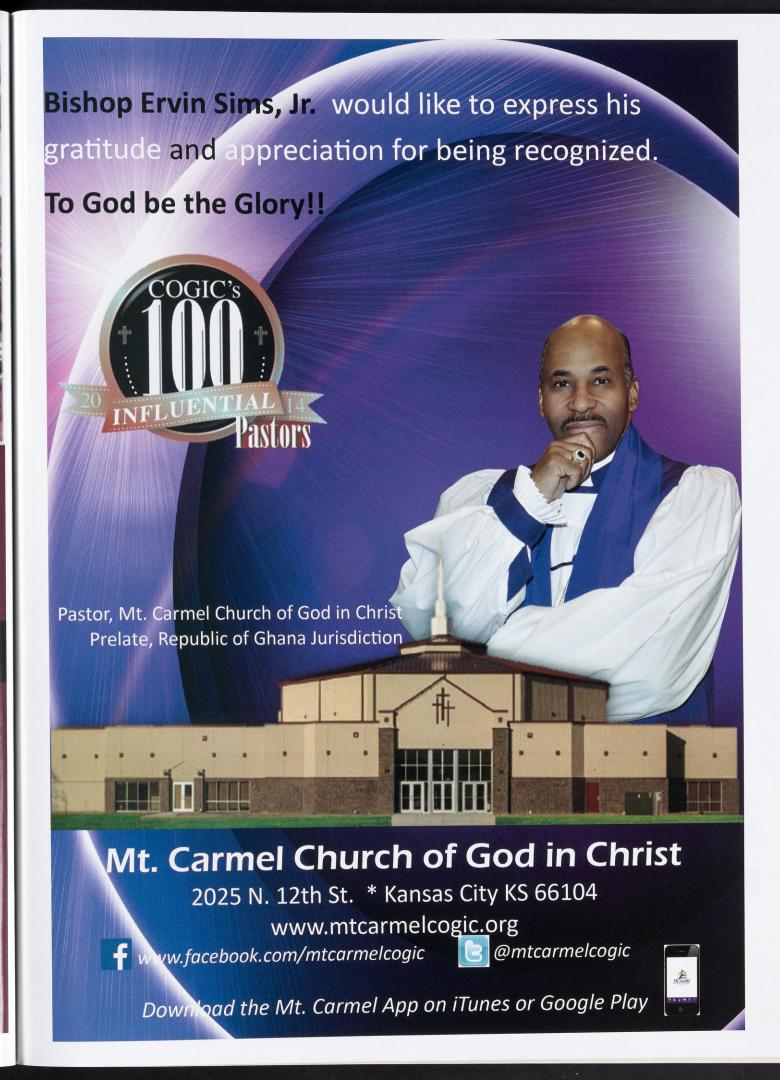


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Make Roomfor the MICIFIERS BOARD

By Missionary Sandra Thompson Williams

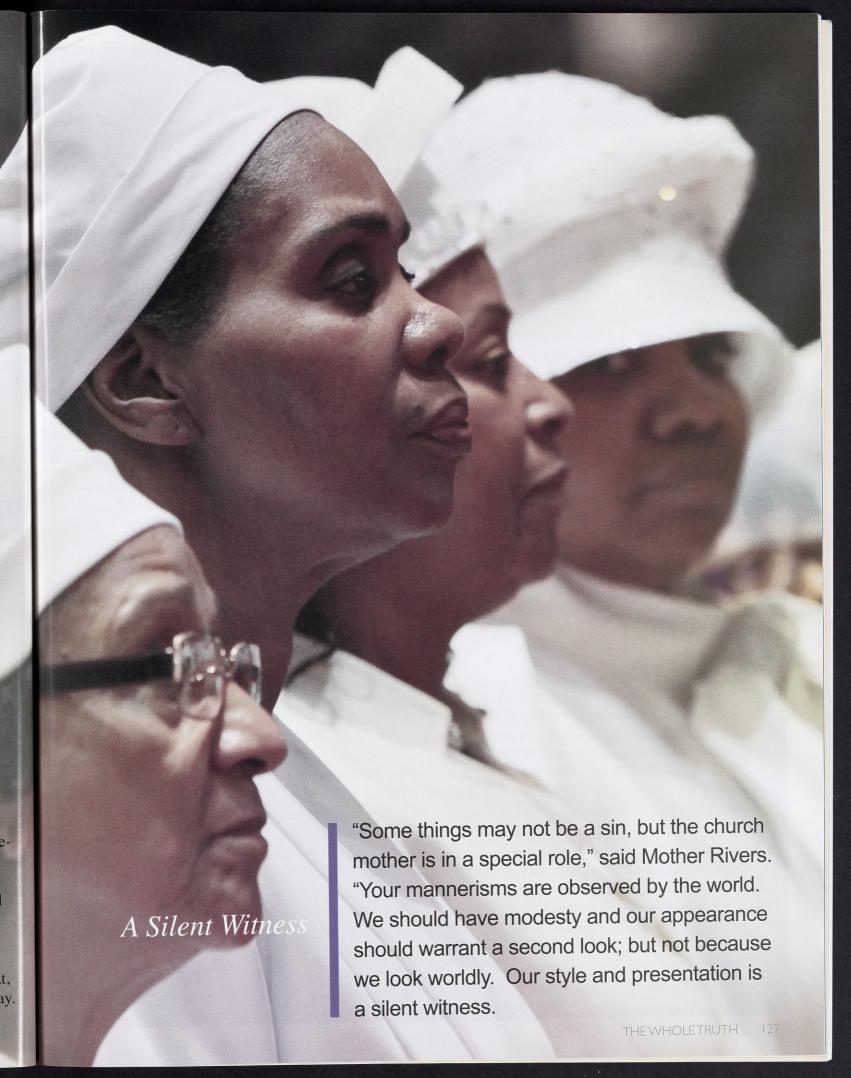


Most of us have met the two extreme types of church mothers. There's the mother we greet heartily when we get to church and plant a kiss on her sweet cheek. We tell her how beautiful she looks in her white hat and pink shoes, with matching purse, and thank her for the prayers she has been sending up on our behalf. The purse of course is huge and filled with peppermints that she will dutifully give us after church. We hug her extra tight because secretly, she reminds us of our grandmother. She always finds a way to compliment or encourage us and make us feel better. We offer to escort her to the pew where she sits every service, which happens to belong to the Mothers Board.

hen there's the other type. You know, the mother we avoid at all costs because we are afraid we are wearing something too tight, too short or too bright. Or we may be afraid that she saw us entering the sanctuary too late. We think we are safe, until she manages to catch our eye when we are headed toward the choir stand. With a stern expression, she beckons us

with her pointing finger. Fear grips us and we immediately start praying because we have no idea what the offense is this Sunday.

These examples are extreme, and the typical church mother is probably somewhere in between. But the scenarios paint a picture of why the Mothers Board is so powerful in the church. Those who have the revered seats are in positions to cause great, lifelong influence in either a positive or negative way. According to the official COGIC handbook for the



Department of Women, "The church Mothers Board can only operate effectively with the authority given by the pastor."



Mother Willie Mae Rivers agrees with that statement. As General Supervisor for the Department of Women, Mother Rivers has had 66 years of experience as a church mother. "The role of the church mother is as important today as it was in the past," Mother Rivers said. "Unfortunately, many churches have abandoned the Mothers Board, instead of giving it the privilege to operate as it should," she said.

Mother Rivers believes the church mother is an important element of the church structure. "It's as important as a mother in the family home structure," she advised. Although she is a mother many times over, including raising ten daughters, she does not allow the Mothers Board to work independently. Instead, she works as a silent team with the pastor and first lady. She believes all Mothers Boards should support the vision of the pastor and have a good rapport with his wife, if he is married. "Supporting the vision of the pastor will help the church and advance the Kingdom," she said.

Mothers Boards may vary in size and age from church to church; however, the church mothers' roles are very important in every congregation. A church mother's standards are higher than a normal parishioner," said Mother Rivers. "She's the big sister in the church. A good church mother doesn't bash the women, but guides them. She has to approach the women the right way," expressed Mother Rivers.

While members of the Mothers Board may be involved in various activities, their responsibility as a church mother is not to be taken lightly. They are to help counsel women and teach them how to be great wives, mothers and homemakers. While some may consider them the fashion police, their calling is much greater than noticing outward appearances. But if the need arises to address fashion, the church mother is obligated to do so in a sweet manner.

"Sometimes pastors tie the hands of the church mother by saying don't bother the women," said Mother Rivers. "However, the sweet church mother can teach the women how to gain respect of men by dressing a certain way." Mother Rivers believes the life experiences of a church mother will help young women and guide them in life.

Mother Mozella Smith is a district superintendent's wife and head of her Mothers Board. "I believe a church mother should be spiritual, wise and prayerful," she said. Mother Rosella Thompson agrees. "A church mother is a role model," she said. "Young women should be able to look up to the church mother to help them when they are unsure about certain decisions," she continued.

Some women in the church realize there are certain sensitive topics that are inappropriate to discuss with the pastor. This is especially true when he doesn't have a wife.

"Some things may not be a sin, but the church mother is in a special role," said Mother Rivers.
"Your mannerisms are observed by the world. We should have modesty and our appearance should warrant a second look; but not because we look worldly. Our style and presentation is a silent witness. The dress code helps to make us different. Many times it will create a conversation and open the door for us to witness or testify. Our women need to know that our dress is important," Mother Rivers said. "It is my desire to one day have a meeting with every church mother," she expressed.

Mother Rivers said the church mother is to also rally other women to pray. Prayer will change the climate. If a church mother is prayerful she will also be sweet and nice when entreating other women. When Mother Rivers was appointed a church mother at the young age of 21, she prayed and asked the Lord to teach her what she needed to do. "The Lord said to me, you have children," she recalled. "He told me to take the love and concern for my children to the church. That's the kind of love God wanted in His house. So I took the love to the church!" she said.

Fashion and times may have changed but holiness remains the same. The church mother will teach the women how to live holy and to practice 1st Thessalonians 4:4: "That every one of you should know how to possess his vessel in sanctification and honour."

Missionary Sandra Thompson Williams is a member of New Mount Zion COGIC where Superintendent Jessie Smith is pastor.

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ASTOR HENRY L. WALKER

On April 4, 2003, God sent a man to Greater New Jerusalem. the Elder Henry L. Walker. a Joshua to pick up the torch and lead his people to a Greater New Jerusalem.

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asis in the Desert

By Reginald Boswell







TEXAS WESTERN JURISDICTIONAL PRELATE

Bishop Juan O. Lawson, jurisdictional prelate of the Texas Western Jurisdiction (TWJ) of the Church of God in Christ, is a professor emeritus of physics and a retired administrator from the University of Texas El Paso, where he served as chairman of the Department of Physics and dean of the College of Science.

Bishop Lawson is a veteran of the United States Army, an experienced community leader and community activist. His ability to communicate in both English and Spanish provides for even more outreach capabilities within his jurisdiction. His vested task of translating the COGIC Manual into Spanish has a great and far reaching impact for our Spanish language churches. A highly sought after speaker and encourager, he has welcomed local Spanish language churches to be a part of the TWJ to effectively spread the Gospel throughout this region.

He is not alone when it comes to being of service to others. The majority of the leadership of the TWJ is affiliated with the military community, either by being veterans, active duty personnel, spouses of veterans or spouses of active duty service members; and they share Bishop Lawson's vision and work, seeing it realized in their own lives, and in the lives of others.

CULTURE

There are two dominant cultures in El Paso: the Hispanic community and the military community. El Paso's bilingual, multicultural (Hispanic, Anglo

and African American) community is ever-growing, due to the influx of military families emerging with established residents. El Paso is the host city to Fort Bliss, the premier military installation within the Department of Defense (DOD). Fort Bliss is one of the largest military complexes of the United States Army and the largest training area. The Texas Western Jurisdiction is the oasis in the middle of the desert for many residents in El Paso.

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Some military service members and their families arrive with the hope that they will fit in or find a calming factor or person, in what seems to be a desert place – spiritually, physically, and mentally. The constant requirement for them to have to uproot and relocate, due to military obligations, is often burdensome and depressing for so many mili-



tary families. The TWJ invites all to experience the vibrant, military, Black-Hispanic-Anglo and various other cultures in El Paso. The history is amazing, the people are wonderful, and the community is thriving!

COGIC IGLESIA

Texas Western Jurisdiction has one Hispanic district superintendent presiding over several Spanish language churches. The Tigua District is growing and satisfies the need for those who are learning the English language, yet desire to grow spiritually. There are three churches under the Tigua District: El Divino Redentor COGIC (Superintendent Carlos

Pallares, pastor), Iglesia Agua de Vida (Eld. Raul V. Pallares, pastor), and El Shadday COGIC (Evangelist Amelia Alvarado, church administrator).

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The Missions Department has seen considerable growth and serves as an agent of charity by being available to serve those who are in need of the basic necessities of food, clothing, and the Word of God.

TWJ sponsors various resources and classes, from financial readiness, to educational and safety seminars, to health and wellness presentations. The Urban Initiatives Ministry has been well received and well attended by community residents who look forward to more opportunities in which to grow. An Energy and Conservation Awareness Program was established to educate others about the importance of recycling and conserving energy in the El Paso region.

TWJ encourages their youth to serve as leaders in their schools and churches. Many serve as

> positive role models in area schools and have become advocates of change within their community, including the participation of a youth initiative about bullying awareness.

> The TWJ leaders and members know that it is no coincidence that God sends people to the desert to replenish their spiritual cup and to flourish via His precepts. The desire to reach out

to residents in El Paso is an active mission that requires great determination. TWJ is truly blessed with many devoted members who continue to witness to others about salvation and living a life for God.

The Texas Western Jurisdiction COGIC is truly an oasis in the middle of the desert.

> Content Submitted by Sister Monica Merriweather TWI COGIC Public Relations Director Military Family and Community Liaison info@twicogic.org www.twjcogic.org



IN THE KNOW WITH TEXAS WESTERN JURISDICTION

Bishop Lawson's mandate to the leaders within the local churches is to be an example of servant leadership by living a victorious life through Christ.

Recognized as an organization that embraces people from all walks of life, the TWJ is setting the standard when it comes to community service and serving as an example of community involvement and leadership. TWJ has a strong Missions Department that serves people in need from both sides of the border.

Reginald Boswell is a member of True Light COGIC in Huntsville, AL where Supt. Terrell Harris, Jr. is the pastor and Bishop Oscar L. Meadows is the prelate of Alabama 1st Jurisdiction.

SUPERINTENDENT CELESTER WEBB

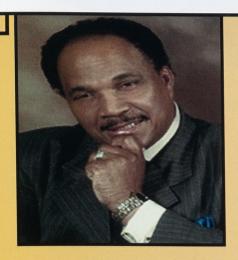
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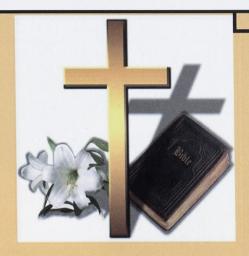
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favor on your life.



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Sunday 11:00am-Worship Service & Live Webcast 8:00pm-Worship Service & Live Webcast

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REDISCOVERING ME, REDISCOVERING YOU

With Dr. Michelle Jackson-McCoy



The Woman Beside the Man

As we honor great men of God acknowledging all they are commanding Let us not forget to look next to whom great men are standing.

Who is this image of virtue and grace who agrees to run a lifelong race?

For she is with him hand in hand working day and night to sow the land.

In his coldest nights she keeps him warm and brings perspective to his storms.

She is someone many fail to understand for she is the woman beside the man.

There is so much about her many fail to see.

She's a woman who measures success against eternity.

Strength and honor are her clothing but in virtue is where she stands.

Who is she is a question we ask in temples across the land.

Although the response may be quick, the answers are seldom right at hand.

For she is more than what you see, she is the woman beside the man.

She feels the pressure of perfection yet is defined by her reflection.

She is adorned by her affection for God's people great and small.

And so today we honor you not just for the things you do.

We honor you for responding to the call.

So for every private prayer she prays for saints to see their better days.

For every time she's used hinds feet to carry someone beyond defeat.

She knows her legacy will be defined by the quiet works revealed in time.

And her testament which may never be told is revealed in the fire as she comes out gold.

So the next time that you see her

Or remember a moment when you wanted to be her

Instead whisper a prayer that God would lead her

For she is the woman beside the man.

We honor her for the mantle she graciously carries every day.

For the commitment that she has to making sure others find their way.

For every sacrifice and selfless act, for her tears, her price, her pain

We celebrate her choices as we benefit from every teardrop stain.

She is a woman to behold with much more story than could ever be told.

But she brings a sweet fragrance to this land, one that could not be created by man.

So, praise God for the woman.

May God bless the woman

And may we never forget there is a woman that stands beside the man.

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One of COGIC's Pastors

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Bishop Samuel Duncan Jr, Senior Pastor Evangelist Dorothy L. Duncan, Elect Lady

"THE STEPS OF A GOOD MAN ARE ORDERED BY THE LORD..."

-PSALMS 37: 23

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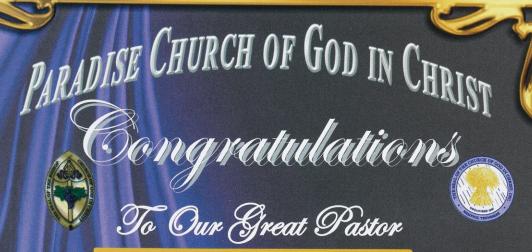
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Paradise COGIC, Area Pastor
Barbados & Caribbean Jurisdiction
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LEGALLY SPEAKING

With Attorney Uleses C. Henderson, Jr



Does the Federal Housing Allowance Provided to Ministers Violate the U.S. Constitution?

At least one federal court in Wisconsin thinks so. This past November, Judge Barbara Crabb of the Western District of Wisconsin struck down the ministerial housing allowance as an unconstitutional preference for religion. The ruling was issued in response to a lawsuit brought by the Freedom From Religion Foundation (FFRF), challenging the constitutionality of the housing allowance and parsonage exclusion.

Section 107(1) of the Internal Revenue Code (Code) excludes from gross income a rental or housing allowance paid to a "minister of the gospel" as part of their compensation. The housing allowance may not exceed the lesser of the following: (a) a dollar amount designated by the minister prior to the applicable taxable year; (b) the actual amount of housing expenses incurred by the minister during the applicable taxable year; or (c) the fair rental value of the home if the minister lives in a church-owned parsonage. Also, called a "double deduction," the housing allowance not only allows minsters to shield a portion of their salary from federal income taxes, but ministers may also itemize their housing expenses as deductions on their Schedule A.

This exemption dates back to the 1920s, when churches paid clergy who lived in church-

owned parsonages. However, over time, fewer churches owned parsonages and instead gave clergy housing allowances, which were also treated as tax-free. Recently however, this exemption has been under fire and highly contested since a decade-old dispute between the IRS and California mega church pastor, Rick Warren. In 2002, the IRS attempted to charge Warren back taxes after he claimed a housing allowance of more than \$70,000. Some tax professionals were not surprised by Judge Crabb's ruling, given the recent media promoting of the extravagant lifestyles of certain mega church pastors and televangelists. They believed that it was only a matter of time before this exemption would be challenged by the courts.

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In striking down the housing allowance as a violation of the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which prohibits Congress from making laws "respecting an establishment of

religion," Judge Crabb found that the exemption "provides a benefit to religious persons and no one else, even though doing so is not necessary to alleviate a special burden on religious exercise."

So what does this mean? Judge Crabb's ruling is not binding on other federal courts and does not apply to ministers in other states. However, since the ruling has since been appealed to the Federal Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit, if the Circuit Court affirms Judge Crabb's decision, churches and clergy in Illinois, Indiana and Wisconsin will be affected. The ruling would only become a national precedent if it was appealed to and affirmed by the U.S. Supreme Court, but this is an unlikely outcome. Nevertheless, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has the discretion to follow, or not follow, the ruling nationwide, and may be inclined to follow it to promote consistency in the application and enforcement of federal laws.

The federal housing allowance applies to an estimated 44,000 ministers, priests, rabbis, imams and others.² If Judge Crabb's ruling is upheld, the compensation package of tens of thousands of clergy will be affected, as some clergy could experience an estimated 5 to 10 percent cut in take-home pay.

Stay tuned as this ruling may have a significant impact on arguably the most significant tax benefit provided to clergy.

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Uleses C. Henderson, Jr. serves as General Counsel for the Church Of God In Christ, Inc.

- I Freedom From Religion Found. v. Lew, -- F.Supp. 2d --, 2013 WL 6139723 (W.D. Wis. Nov. 22, 2013).
- 2 Sarah Pulliam Bailey, "Clergy Tax-Free Housing Allowance Ruled Unconstitutional; Freedom From Religion Foundation Wins Federal Suit," HUFFINGTON POST, Religion News Service (posted Nov. 25, 2013).

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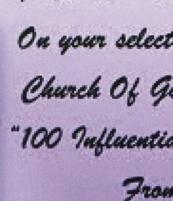
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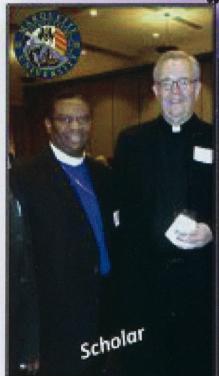
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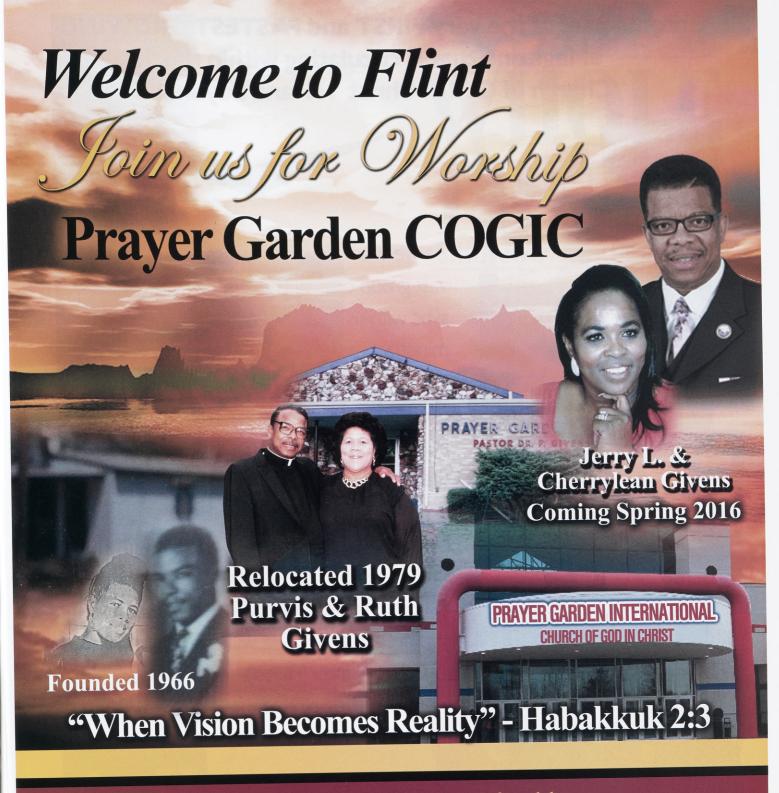


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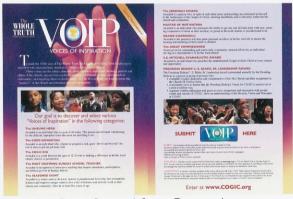
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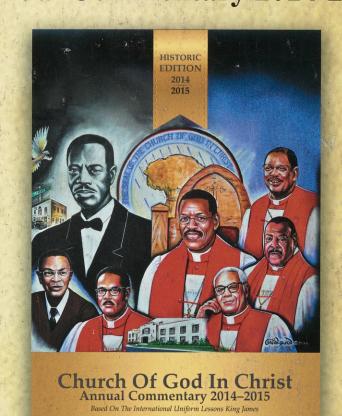
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